THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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Summary of News.

Monday, 1st June.

AN active slave trade in native girls takes place by land between Tonquine and China. The girls are kidnapped and taken to Honkong, Pakhoi, Hoihow and Canton where they are sold to lead lives of infamy for the most part. The French authorities have vainly tried to stir up the Chinese Government against the evil, though the law of China assigns the death penalty to kidnappers.

A LUMINOUS proposal comes from the United States. A Western paper proposes a remarkable scheme for decreasing drunkenness. It is that inebriate asylums be established at the expense of the State, and that those who make and sell liquor should be compelled to pay for their support. The idea is to make the distiller pay a license tax of £200 a year, the wholesale dealer £100, and the publican £20. Drunkenness would then be treated as a nervous disease and all drunkards would be kept in the asylums till permanently cured.

THE Committee of the Chamber of Commerce has circulated copies of letters from Sir John Edgar and Mr. Lambert on the possible introduction into India of the system under which the certificates of "The Boiler Insurance and Steam Powder Co., Ld.," are accepted as adequate in place of the certificate of the Government Engineer Inspector.

NINE thousand nine hundred and eleven persons visited the Indian Museum during the month of May 1891, the total being made up of 267 male and 124 female Natives of India. The daily average during the 12 days on which the Institution was open to the general public was 1,659.

HIS Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Benga has approved of the appointment of the following gentlemen as Chairmen of the Municipalities voted beside their names;—Mr. H. F. Wilson(Naraingunj); Maharaja Girija Nath Roy (Dinajpur).

A RECENT issue of the *Revue des deux Monde* supplies a remarkable illustration of the growing popularity of Oriental study in France. At the beginning of an interesting article on the Indian theatre M. Emile Senart cites no less than nine translations of Indian classics which have appeared in France within the last few years, beginning with the Sakuntala in 1882, and ending with the Mudrarakshasa in 1888; and his own essay was suggested by a new work which has recently appeared from the pen of M. Sylvain Levi, giving a complete account of the practice, literary history and origin of the Hindu drama. M. Senart, in endeavouring to express the *genre* of Indian poetry, can scarcely find words for his purpose. By turns "descriptive, moral, didactic, elegiac, lyric, often erotic, limited in its scting, yet varied in its metrical forms and still more in its subject, the Indian drama is the most faithful mirror of the Hindu mind. In language often felicitous and picturesque it expresses at once the noblest aspirations of our moral nature and the subtlest scepticism, the fire of sensuality and the indifference of the stoic, profound despair and cheerful acquiescence."

THERE was an alarming increase, during the first nine months of last year, in the number of accidents on Indian Railways. Recently published returns shew that with a growth of less than 4 per cent. in the total train mileage, the excess of casualties over the average of the preceding two years amounted to nearly 12 per cent. The number of passenger-train collisions, for instance, rose from 2 to , the burstings of engine tubes from 57 to 92, the failures of machinery from 165 to 250, and so on. In one respect, however, and that the most important, the comparison is in favour of 1890. During the nine months, eight passengers and railway servants were killed and 45 injured as against 14 killed and 103 injured in the corresponding period of 1888 and 1889.

AT a banquet given at Paris to the members of the Imperial Press, General Durberail explained the political programme of Prince Victor Napoleon who, he said, would follow in the footsteps of the Emperor Napoleon III and found a social brotherhood, the Government of the country to be by the people, under a powerful head.

Tuesday, 2nd June.

A FRENCH paper *La Liberte* publishes the following.—"On the day of her death in London Mme. Blavatsky's phantom, or, as the occultists call it, her astral body, appeared to the Duchess de Pomar, at her residence in the Avenue de Waggram. The Duchess was talking to Mme. Adam in her drawing-room. All at once she saw the form of H. P. B., who was dead. A few hours afterwards she learned the news of Mme. Blavatsky's death. "Madame Blavatsky's power lay in her personality," writes a correspondent. "Her friends were wont to say that those who went to her to scoff remained to pray—at any rate she generally like the mariner with the wedding guest, had her way. H. P. B.'s conversational powers in several languages were remarkable, and in her majesty of wrinkles she fascinated people with her piercing eyes. She always sat with her backto the window, surrounded with Eastern furniture and paraphernalia. "Madame doted on everything Eastern," she told me once when I took some Asiatics on a pilgrimage to her shrine. An ex-official of the Theosophical Society—an apostate—told me of Madame's miracles performed in London. She was entertaining a dinner party and suddenly said, 'I feel like working a miracle,' adding laughingly, 'Does any one want anything?' A young male guest answered that he would like an Indian silver filigree card case. 'Very well,' said H. P. B. concentrating herself. After half a minute had passed Madame told her visitor to go into the hall, and he would find what he wanted in his greatcoat-pocket. And so he did. The card-case was of unusual kind, and the young man declared that his desire for such a one had only entered his head a moment before he gave it utterance. The one possible explanation, under the circumstances, was that Mme. Blavatsky had first the card-case put in her guest's coat and then had willed him to think of it."

SERIOUS riots occurred at Bilboa on Saturday (30 May) owing to the police dispersing a meeting of strikers. The police fired upon the rioters, one of whom was killed, several being injured. The riots were renewed to-day (Sunday), when the troops were called out, and the riots were dispersed by the cavalry. The town is now held by the troops.

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Halsbury, has accepted the presidency of the organising reception Committee of the Oriental Congress.

THE Marquis di Rudini has formally informed the Austrian and German Governments of Italy's firm adhesion to the Triple Alliance.

THE London Corporation has voted £3,000 for the reception of the German Emperor in the city next July.

THE *World* writes:—"A paragraph appeared in these columns last week respecting the Prince of Wales, his alleged financial embarrassments, and their proposed liquidation. I am assured on the highest possible authority that there is not the slightest foundation for the current rumours on which this paragraph was based. I unhesitatingly express my great regret that it should have appeared."

Truth says:—"I believe that the Queen has several times during the last twenty years given considerable sums, to six figures, for the specific purpose of paying off the mortgage on the Sandringham Estate. The name of the Duke of Clarence has never been mentioned in the course of the negotiation which has been going on. The Duke, as a matter of fact, has received an adequate and regular income for nearly two years past. The Prince of Wales has quite recently paid a large sum towards the expense of alterations in the house in St. James's Palace, which at some future period is to become the residence of his eldest son. The Parliamentary allowance for the children of the Prince is not dispensed by His Royal Highness, as appears to be supposed, but is administered by official trustees."

THE House of Commons has passed the second reading of the Bill prohibiting sealing being carried on in Behring Sea by British subjects until May, 1892, provided that Russia also assents to abstain.

LAST week three sharks were caught at Fort Point. The animals were from five to ten feet long.

Wednesday, 3rd June.

LORD SALISBURY was asked the other day about the health of Arabi Pasha. The premier replied that Arabi had been offered quarters in another part of Ceylon, but that he could not be allowed to return to Egypt.

RUSSIAN Opinion about England:—The *Moscow Gazette*, in a leading article, on the Behring Sea question, is highly indignant with England and says "that whatever may be the dispute in relation to the Behring Sea, it cannot be decided without reference to Russia. Any arrangement made without her consent will have no binding force on Russia, and consequently will be worthless." Of the American claims, the *Gazette* speaks with respectful sympathy, but suggests that the time has come for England to receive a lesson and be taught no longer to take advantage of her all-powerful fleet to treat every bit of open sea as her peculiar property. The article concludes with a proposal to settle the question directly with the United States and without reference to England.

STRINGENT measures are being taken to prevent the threatened invasion of the plague of locusts through the whole of the Egyptain Delta. What may they be? We want some such measures in India.

THE Leprosy Commission is still at Simla, and it is stated that two members, Messrs. Kanthack and Barclay, have made a discovery which enables them to grow the bacillus of leprosy. The *modus operandi* has been to inoculate tubes containing gelatine or bouillon with material originally derived from leprosy patients. In two cases out of three identical results were obtained. A rabbit inoculated with the artificial cultivation just described was found to have developed tumours in the liver and intestines, which contained the same bacilli as those taken from the tubes. These important experiments are being continued.

THE inhabitants of a starving village refused unanimously, it appears, to accept relief from a Government kitchen which had been established within an easy distance of their homes, and a district officer made a visit of inspection with the object of enquiring into the reasons for this refusal. The poorer persons and children, he said, took flight at his approach, but he succeeded eventually in obtaining an interview with some of the inhabitants. An old woman, he found, had spread a report that the villagers were to be attracted to the kitchen by the promise of food, and were then to be seized and sent off to distant places. About a dozen persons to whom relief tickets had already been given were looked upon as doomed, and a kind of funeral ceremony had been held over them by their fellow villagers.

THE juice of the pineapple is said to furnish a new remedy for diptheria, containing, as it does, a considerable quantity of a most effective ferment which dissolves albumen and is called bromeline.

THE Government of India have recently issued orders regarding the reorganisation and recruitment of the Accounts Department, by right of suggestions made by the Finance Committee and the Public Service Commission. It is now ruled that in order to afford encouragement to the best officers belonging to the enrolled list, one of the five Accountant-Generalships may be given to an officer on that list other than an Indian Civil Servant, as a reward of conspicuous merit, if there is, when a vacancy occurs, such an officer competent to fill the appointment efficiently. There are thirty-six charges, to fill which officers of the enrolled list actually present on duty are required, and in order to provide for these the total strength of the list is raised from 42 to 45 officers by the addition of one appointment in Classes 1, 5 and 6. The rates of pay attached to the appointments on the enrolled list will no longer be progressive. The rates in the six classes will be rupees 1,500, 1,250, 1,000, 800, 600 and 400 respectively. The new scale will not be applied to any officers serving in the Department on 1st January 1891.

IT is said now by the *Civil and Military Gazette* that there is every probability of Colonel Nisbet returning to Cashmere on the expiry of his leave.

Thursday, 4th June.

How the Jew of the present generation still sticks to his old profession of usury and trades may be seen from the following statistics taken from the *Bombay Gazette* :—Consul Grant says the trades and industries in the city of Warsaw are almost entirely in the hands of the Hebrew population. In the higher branches of commerce the ratio is 16 Jews to 3 Christians, in the lower branches 19 Jews to 2 Christians, and in the agency and brokerage business 43 Jews to 1 Christian. Of the large industrial enterprises of the city, 63 per cent. are in the hands of Jews, and only 18 per cent. belong to native Christians. As common workmen and as domesticts the proportion is the other way, only 11,000 Jews, or 8 per cent. of the total Jewish population, being so employed, against 43,000 Christians, or 20 per cent. of the total Christian population.

A WEDDING of an extraordinary character took place at the Registrar's Office at South Shields, on April 25th, the bridal pair being a little lady mite, who is only 32 inches high, and Professor Bedley, solo euphonium player who is 6 ft. 1 in. in height. The gentleman, who gave the lady away, was Monsieur Hubert, a man without arms, who signed the marriage certificate as a witness with a pen between his teeth, and the brides maids were Nina (an American giantess, who is 44 stone in weight) and Setonella (the "Fire Queen"). The best man was Captain Dallas, who is 7 ft. 10 in high, and General Metilance who is 29½ in, in height, formed one of the party, all of whom are connected with a menagerie and circus, which is travelling the country.

MR. LABOUCHERE writes :—'I have to thank a large number of my Indian readers who have responded to my request for information respecting the tiger and the bear in the Lahore "Zoo" Had it been true that these noble beasts had mysteriously disappeared, I should have been able to tell an interesting story of their fate. But here is another anecdote about the tiger (Moti), sent to me by a gentleman who for some time had honorary charge of the gardens. Moti, by the way, appears to have been dead for three or four years :—"There was an old sweeper who rose to be zemedar of the gardens and the old man often related to me a striking story of Moti's escape. It appeared that one morning on going his rounds he found the tiger's cage door open, and the animal absent. He set off in pursuit, tracking by the tiger's pugs. After a time, he discovered Moti quietly resting in a private garden, whereupon he fell on his knees, touched the earth with his head, and addressing the tiger said, "You are my father and my mother, your highness, you are the most beautiful and the greatest lord among tigers. I am the most humble of your servants, a poor mean wretch, with many children, and the Great Government will be angry, and deprive me of my post unless you return quietly with me." The sweeper then rose, approached Moti, and with the aid of his *kumerband*, which he tied round the beast's neck, he led him back to his cage, Moti following like a lamb. There can be no question that the man richly deserved his promotion for his pluck in calmly walking up to and securing a full-grown tiger, more especially as he was aware that the animal had once tasted human blood.'

AFTER a protracted debate in the House of Commons, Mr. W. H. Smith, yielding to the insistence of the Opposition, has accepted a resolution moved by Mr. Bryce that the House should proceed no further with the Newfoundland Fisheries Bill. The resolution was adopted without a division.

THE Tipperary dispute has been finally settled The tenants, who under the Plan of Campaign left their homes some time ago and erected a township called New Tipperary, have now returned to their former houses.

SIR J. JOHNSTONE writes again to the *Times* insisting upon the importance of the non-annexation of Manipur. He says :—"Let me put in one more plea for Manipur: recent events have not made the situation impracticable. It is useless now to inquire who was in the wrong—that is a question for the Government of India to decide, and probably blame could, with justice, be pretty evenly distributed. The real question to decide is—as I assume we wish to act up to our engagements with Native States—is there any alternative to annexation? I maintain once more that there is. The rightful Maharaja, Sura Chandra Singh, is still in Calcutta. We can replace him on the throne, or, if we prefer it, his infant son. In either case a strong Political Agent must be appointed and the nominal ruler kept in a state of tutelage for a time. If matters are well managed, things will right themselves, and Manipur will emerge from her temporary obscurity happier than ever because better governed, and we shall have the satisfaction of having preserved an interesting little State that has been and can be of much use to us."

Friday, 5th June.

DISQUIETING news comes from the Malabar district, where the prospects of the season are causing apprehension to the Collector and divisional officers. Prices are reported to have risen since the beginning of the month in one part of the district and scarcity of rice is felt in another part. Owing to the difficulty of importation the usual canal works have already begun, but the Budget allotment is considered insufficient. Famine works have been ordered to be started at once, wages being limited to amounts prescribed in the Famine Code to deter all but really the needy from resorting to the works.

IN the Bengal Government resolution dealing with the jail administration for the past year, it is stated that in one of the jails recently visited by him, the Lieutenant-Governor observed that two prisoners had died, who had been in hospital almost ever since their admission into jail. With regard to such cases, Sir Charles Elliott is of opinion that a less rigid procedure than hitherto followed should be adopted, and that, when the Magistrate reports that a prisoner has been long ill and is likely to die, and when he has friends who will be responsible for his safe keeping, he should be released, not so much in order to keep down the jail mortality return, which is unduly swelled by the retention of incurables, but chiefly from motives of humanity that the poor creature may have the comfort of dying at home. The Inspector-General has accordingly been requested to submit all such cases to Government for orders.

THE Official Assignee of Madras recently brought to the notice of Government the great hardship endured by Government officials who are forced to resort to the Insolvent Court by the practice of suspending them during the period their cases are pending trial and after their discharge of restoring them without arrears of pay, thus forcing them to contract fresh liabilities. Tne Mradas Government enquired of the Bengal and Bombay Governments as to the practice obtaining in those Presidencies in such cases. The replies received went to show that insolvents were not invariably suspended, and when so suspended arrears of pay were passed to them on restoration. The Madras Government has accordingly ruled that the question of suspending Government servants resorting to the Insolvent Court will in future be left to the discretion of Heads of Departments, but that each case will, as hitherto, be finally disposed of by Government.

LORD LYTTON has completed a drama, which will probably be produced in London. The theme is classic, which is the theme usually selected by Poet-Laureates and statesmen who write for the stage. There is not much demand for classical dramas, even when produced by the greatest pens or by the pens of the greatest men. It is not generally known that Mr. Gladstone is the author of an unacted tragedy. Mrs. Langtry, though she recieved the offer of producing it, found it "too hard."

AGITATION seems to be the order of the day in Travancore, says a Madras paper. Notwithstanding all the efforts of the Madras Government, to keep matters quiet, the whole country is ablaze with excitement, and party feeling runs as high as ever. The party who advocate "Travancore for the Travancoreans" are now sanguine of success and and the quiet, law-abiding Nayar has been worked into a state bordering on enthusiam. It has been arranged that the leaders of this movement are to address a number of public meetings in favour of the programme "Travancore for the Travancoreans."

SOLDIERS out for sport have often carelessly or wilfully caused the death of Indian peasants. The Military Department has now issued the following regulations in connection with this matter: The men must be steady, well conducted and competent to handle a gun; not less than three men to go out together, and at least one of the party to have sufficient acquaintance with the language to be able to converse with the inhabitants; not to shoot at night time; the rank and names of the party to be sent to the magistrate of the district to which the men are proceeding whenever the pass extends over three days: not to enter any village, house, temple, mosque, enclosure, or to shoot within 500 yards of villages; not to trespass upon, or shoot over crops or ground that is held sacred; not to shoot such animals and birds which are looked upon as sacred by the inhabitants, a list of which is to be read over to the men, and commanding officers to ascertain from the civil authorities what localities are open to shooting and to confine the passes to those localities. Any breaches of these rules are to be severely punished and should the men of any regiment be guilty of repeated disregard of these orders, permission to shoot is to be withdrawn from the whole corps for one year.

Saturday, 6th June.

A SOCIETY journalist says that of late years He Majesty has become most strangely superstitious and full of forebodings. Everything, even the most trivial incident, has latterly seemed to her to be full of mysterious and prophetic meaning, and even during the recent visit to Grasse, where she was unusually gay and enjoyed herself thoroughly, she became tormented with these silly superstitions. For instance, Her Majesty remembered that her late housemaid Reynolds, had broken a looking glass at Windsor just before the Royal party set out for the Continent. Of course all the superstitious fears and vague terrors came back to the mind of Her Majesty with vigour, renewed ten-fold when she remembered this, and during the last week of her stay at Grasse our Empress-Queen was busying herself "interpreting" everything like Joseph in the Old Testament—not dreams only, but all sorts of things, and seeking to find and recognise, in the most trivial facts and incidents, some mysterious and prophetic meaning. Again, if Princess Beatrice sneezed, Her Majesty would immediately instruct the Duke of Rutland to intimate to Lord Salisbury that it was her Sovereign's pleasure that the Portuguese sohuld be dealt with very severely, as the sneeze of Beatrice would seem to say "Mashonaland!" and she, therefore, feared that the South African territory might be in danger. In vain did Princesses Louise and Beatrice endeavour to reason with their august Mamma; she would not listen to them, and went on interpreting everything, looking upon all things as symbolical.

THE Czar's eldest daughter is a self-willed young lady. It appears that the young Grand Duchess, seeing the crowds in the streets carrying palms and cakes to and from the churches on Palm Sunday, asked her father if she might go out and join in the excitement. Her father at first demurred, but after a little coaxing she obtained permission, and went out, accompanied by two young ladies of her own age. They went to the booths which at this season in Russia are erected for the sale of palms, cakes, and other votive offerings, and made numerous purchases, elbowing their way through the crowds unrecognised. The Chief of Police, M. Gresser, who had been informed of the young ladies' intended walk, had them unostentatiously followed and guarded from any possible misadventure. M. Gresser himself passed close by the Czar's daughter, but did not salute her, thinking that it might attract attention to the party. On their return to the palace the young Grand Duchess indignantly told her father how M. Gresser had rudely passed by without saluting, although she felt certain he had recognised her. The Czar smiled, and said, "M. Gresser did right in acting thus towards such a wilful young lady. When an Imperial Princess mixes with a crowd she cannot expect to be treated as if she were above the level of the crowd."

SIR W. WILLIAM HUNTER, in reference to the Manipur correspondence which has appeared, writes to the *Times* :—"I observe a disposition in certain quarters to twist my letter in the *Times* of the 5th into some sort of constructive defence of our policy or proceedings at Manipur. I need scarcely point out that my sole request was that the public will 'suspend any judgment adverse to Mr. Quinton until the promised despaches" arrive, showing what that policy and what those proceedings really were. I stated certain facts, and pointed out certain discrepancies in the existing evidence, which seemed to furnish good grounds for maling this request. But I would be the last man to pallate any act of treachery on the part of the Indian Government, or on the part of its representative, if such an act had been meditated."

THE monthly general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal was held on Wednesday. Mr. W. L. Sclater exhibited an old breech-loading gun dug up in the Gya district. Mr. E. C. Cotes exhibited two insects which are amongst the causes now conspiring to prevent he continuance of the locust plague through another year. The following papers were read :—1. Notes on a fiery hot-blast in the district of Khulna on the 11th of May 1891.—By H. James Rainey. Communicated by the Natural History Secretary. 2. The 'Tsam-chho-dung' (rtsa-mchhog-grong) of the Lamas, and their very erroneous identification of the site of Buddha's death.—By L. A. Waddell, M. B.

THE Imperial Chancellor General Von Caprivi has announced that Prussia is unable to recommend the Federal Council to suspend or reduce the corn duties.

THE visit which his Imperial Majesty the Czar intended paying to Moscow has been deferred, through the illhealth of her Majesty the Czarina, and will probably be abandoned owing to the ill-feeling that exists at Moscow through the expulsion of the Jews and the severe treatment to which the students have recently been subjected.

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The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1891.

THE MANIPUR AFFAIR.

WHILE the *Englishman* has been trying hard to vindicate the plan formed for arresting the Senapati, even when reason and fact have been arrayed against it, the *Pioneer* comes out with the bold and frank confession, that "a course which strikes a very large number of unprejudiced people as savouring of sharp practice, is condemned without further argument." Our contemporary further observes that "the objections to the course pursued come, not only from people in England, who it might be said are ignorant of Indian usage in these matters, but are notoriously shared by experienced officers all over the country, who hold that such dealings are calculated to tarnish British reputation for good faith—our most valuable possession—all over India." We, for ourselves, can declare that we have been moved exactly by such an idea in condemning the policy throughout. The English Government, as a civilised and enlightened Government, should always rule according to the highest moral standard, and no exigency of circumstances should be allowed to lead to a lowering of that standard in any way. Our contemporary, however, does not decide as to who is responsible for this "sharp practice." He exonerates as well the Home Government, as the Government of India. He partly exonerates also Mr. Quinton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam. To our mind, some body must be responsible for this treacherous plan, and our opinion is, that if the prestige of the British Government, which, on account of late events, has considerably fallen down, is to be restored to its ancient level, the paramount duty of the Supreme Government should be to find out the party in fault and publicly lay the burden of the blame on him.

Questions were asked in Parliament, on the 11th and the 12th of May last, as to how far the Government of India was responsible for the proclamation, issued by the Chief Commissioner of Burma, and referred to and severely commented upon by the *St. James's Gazette*, that rewards of specified amounts were set upon the heads of the fugitive nobles of Manipur. Viscount Cross, in the Lords, answering to Lord Ripon, observed that the Viceroy had telegraphed, that "there is no foundation for the report that reward has been offered by us for rebels, dead or alive." Baron H. de Worms, in the Commons, replying for Sir John Gorst, observed that the material part of the proclamation was, that any such persons (*i e* the Regent of Manipur, his Counsellors, Generals or followers) taking refuge in Burma, are to be seized and delivered up to the nearest Magistrate or Police-officer, that rewards varying from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5,000 would be granted for the capture of the persons named, and that, therefore, the Secretary of State saw nothing in such a proclamation to require his interference. The *St. James's Gazette*, it would appear, laboured under a misconception, though there can be little doubt that its remark, that such a proclamation would be setting "a premium on assassination," would be perfectly just, if the facts were as stated by him.

The trial of the Manipur nobles implicated in the late out break has commenced. Sammu Singh, Colonel, and Aiya Parel, Major, have been sentenced to death, for abetting the murder of Mr. Quinton and the other British officers. The Tongal General, while on trial, made the defence, that he knew nothing of the murder, that he had indeed dissuaded Mr. Quinton from entering the fort at night, that it was only on the morning of the 25th that he heard that the British officers had been killed by the Senapati's orders. The evidence taken in his case has not appeared in the papers. He has, however, been sentenced to death. At present Tickendrajit, the Juvaraj, is on his trial. We doubt not that his trial is being looked upon with eager and scrutinising eyes by the public at large. He was the man most influential—nay, the *de facto* king, in Manipur. He is further supposed to have raised and headed this outbreak, and to have ordered the execution of the British officers. Yet circumstances stand in such a doubtful light, that he may perchance be found to have been guiltless. His trial has thus a significance far more weighty than that of any other personage in the State. In view of such facts, we cannot too heartily wish that the Court which is to try him should be very well constituted. That the present Court is badly constituted we do not mean to say. It is composed of Lieutenant-Colonel Mitchell, President, Major Ridgeway, 44th Goorkhas and Mr. Davis, Political officer, men who can claim full credit for conscientiousness, judiciousness and strong common sense. But, inasmuch as many of the eye-witnesses of the late affairs are dead, and the present temptation to help the prosecution is great, these men would, in dealing justly with the accused, require a tact in the admission and sifting of evidence which none but professional men possess. It would have been, therefore, very much satisfactory, and likely to raise confidence in all quarters, the accused not excepted, if some experienced Judge of one of the High Courts could be found to preside over the Commission. It would have been not less satisfactory to know that the accused was given the right and opportunity of choosing his own advocate.

The Trial.

The first witness examined for the prosecution was Rusicklal Kundu, the Political Agent's Head clerk. So long as the case is under trial, we will desist from making any remarks on its merits. But we think we are justified, even at this stage, in commenting upon one or two points appearing in the evidence of this and the next witness. The first important fact to which Rusicklal deposes is the absence of the Juvaraj from the first Durbar. This statement is evidently a lie, as we have the evidence of not less than six independent parties to the contrary. To give a colouring of truth to this statement he fabricates another falsehood. "Long before the Chief Commissioner arrived, there was a rumour that he was coming to arrest the Juvaraj." That there was no possibility of such a rumour spreading, is evident from the nature of the case. The plan of arresting the Juvaraj was kept a dead secret till the last moment, nor was it a very natural inference for the people to make. Both the above statements of Rusicklal are contradicted by the second witness, Bama Charan Mookerjee, who gives a far more natural account. He says that "rumours were abroad, previous to Mr. Quinton's arrival, that the Calcutta Raja was to be re-instated and that the Chief Commissioner, with 1,500 troops was coming to place him forcibly on the throne, that the Manipuris were highly displeased at this and commenced preparations to resist the advance and also to defend the palace." Bama Charan also deposes that "at 12 o'clock on the 22nd March, the Regent, Juvaraj, Zilla Singh and several Ministers went to the Durbar at the Residency; but in about half an hour, the Juvaraj returned, feeling unwell." Witness stated that "he *personally saw* the Juvaraj to go to the Residency." This point, therefore, can be regarded to be conclusively established, and the Government theory, that the Senapati expected arrest, on the ground that he absented himself even from the first Durbar, must be held to be exploded. Rusick Lal and Bama Charan agree in stating "that about half-past-four on the 23rd March, Mr. Grimwood and Mr. Simpson came to the Durbar Hall with a letter from Mr. Quinton, in which he stated that the Government of India's orders were to appoint the Regent as Maharaja and to remove the Juvaraj from Manipur on account of his bad conduct, and that, therefore, the Regent was to make over the Juvaraj at once." To this the Regent demurred, asked for time to consult his ministers, and returned an answer expressing inability to carry out the orders till the Juvaraj is in better health. It was now that troops began to be arranged in the palace and signs of trouble became manifest on all sides. Both these witnesses further depose that, when, after the troubles were over, they saw the Juvaraj, he expressed regret for what had happened, saying that matters had gone to the extreme, that otherwise their lives would have been sacrificed and complaining of the outrageous conduct of the English army in pulling down temples. The third witness speaks nothing important.

The fourth witness is Colonel Chatterton, and he deposes to the four following facts:—

(1) That the English army was ordered to attack the Juvaraj's palace on the morning of the 24th but that they were not open fire unless first fired on by the enemy.

(2) That on Mr. Quinton suing for peace, the Regent answered "that he had no wish to wage war with British troops, that the British attacked first and that his men had defended themselves;" and that "he was willing to stop fighting, if the English would throw down their arms and accoutrements in one minute."

(3) That Mr. Quinton and his party left for the palace on an assurance of safety given by the Juvaraj's messenger, who said "Why should we harm you, who are our god?"

(4) That, at the time of retreat, the thanas had orders to pass Mrs. Grimwood and the sepoys, but to send back the Shahibs.

The fifth witness is Girichi Singh, who, among other things, deposes to what passed between the Chief Commissioner and the Senapati, during the interview in the palace on the night of the 24th March, and to the events which happened just previous to the murder. "The Juvaraj said that he was quite ready to surrender, but complained of the bad treatment of himself and of his people, his house being surrounded and his men killed. The Juvaraj said, they were afraid of Mr. Quinton's men after what had been done; also that Mr. Quinton's men must give up their arms. The Chief Commissioner replied 'I cannot give up the arms, which belong to the Government.' The interview lasted an hour. When the Shahibs got up to go away, there was much shouting from the people. Mr. Grimwood called to the witness to see them safely out. The Juvaraj who was going away said, "Certainly." Witness accompanied Mr. Quinton's party, but when they reached the door, they found it closed. The men who were about began beating the Shahibs with the butt ends of their rifles, also thrusting with spears till a young officer was hit over the head inside the house. The Shahibs came back to the Durbar house, where three ascended the steps, while two went into the place below the steps. The door of the Durbar house was burst open by Jattra Singh, one of the escort. When the Juvaraj heard the noise, he returned driving the Manipuri sepoys away with a stick. He went up the steps and spoke to the Chief Commissioner. The Juvaraj then went away, telling the witness to take care of the Shahibs and keep them in the Bunglow. When Jattra Singh burst open the door, the Shahibs entered. Mr. Grimwood was then lying dead under the steps. Witness believes Mr. Grimwood to have been speared before the Juvaraj returned. The Chief Commissioner had been struck on the arm. Witness having ordered sentries to be posted to take care of the Shahibs, went away for one hour. On his return, he was informed that the Shahibs had been killed. The Juvaraj was not present when the witness returned. The Juvaraj did not punish the witness for leaving the prisoners to be murdered, nor did he punish the sentries. When the Juvaraj returned, after the Chief Commissioner was attacked, he brought no minister but only a few followers."

The sixth witness, Hanban Dewan, a Magistrate, states that, on the evening of the 24th, he went from the west gate of the palace to meet the Shahibs towards the Residency, that he made them over to Aiya Parel, and that he saw the British Officers shaking hands with the Tongal General and Sammu Colonel.

The seventh witness, Angao Ningto, a leading Manipuri Minister, states that the persons present at the Durbar, held outside the Durbar hall in the fort at 8 P.M. on the 24th, were the Bri-

tish Officers, one bugler, the Juvaraj, the Tongal Major, Luaug Ningto and himself. The rest of his deposition corroborates the statement of Girichi Singh.

The eighth witness, Jattra Singh, worker in the Raja's godown, states that, on the evening of the 24th, he broke open the door of the Durbar Hall with his shoulder, and let the Shahibs in, to protect them from the fury of the crowd outside. He did not see Mr. Grimwood. He got for Mr. Simpson water and a pagri to tie up his arm. He told the Juvaraj that the bandsmen, who were in charge of the Durbar Hall were absent. The Juvaraj said nothing. Usorba said that orders had been given to kill the Shahibs by the Tongal General. Witness proposed asking for the Juvaraj's orders. Witness went with Usorba to look for the Juvaraj. Hida Chanbi was then sentry inside the room. They found the Juvaraj near the south gate. They told him of the Tongal General's orders. He said "Let us consult with the old man". The Juvaraj went to the top guard and meeting the Tongal General, said "What is this you have said?" The Tongal General said "I see no means of again becoming friends with the Shahibs. Therefore, let us kill these people." The Juvaraj made no reply. Witness did not know who gave the final orders for the Shahibs to be killed. He did not hear the Juvaraj say that the Shahibs were not to be killed.

The ninth witness, Usorba, states that on the night of the 24th, he heard Angao Ningto order the people of the top guard to place sentries on the Shahibs that no harm might come to them. The Tongal General, who was at the top guard, said to witness, "shut the Sahibs' mouths" meaning that they should be killed. Witness asked if this was the Juvaraj's order. The Tongal General replied "Why do you ask?" Witness said "We cannot carry out this order without a distinct order from the Juvaraj. If I obey your orders I shall get into trouble." The Tongal General told him to go to the Juvaraj. Witness met Jantra Singh and went with him to find the Juvaraj. He reported to him the Tongal General's order. The Juvaraj said "Did the old man give such an order! Don't do such a thing. I am coming." The Tongal General, whom witness met at the top guard, remarked:—"The Juvaraj is a fool. We can never make it up with the Shahibs." Witness then went to the Durbar Hall. Half an hour after. Yenkhorba, the Lalupchingha or Sirdar, came, saying that the General had ordered the Shahibs to be made over to the executioner.

The tenth witness, Tangjaba Yaima, blacksmith to the Maharaja, states that he placed fetters on four British officers and the bugler in the Durbar Hall at 9-30 on the 24th March, by order of the Durbar.

The eleventh witness is the executioner, who deposes that the execution was by order of the Juvaraj, who had sent for witness. Witness did not see Juvaraj at the execution. He also deposes to the manner of the execution.

The twelfth and thirteenth witnesses depose to having heard that the Tongal General gave the order for the execution, the latter stating that the General generally gave orders when executions were necessary. The fourteenth witness, Kulendra Singh, describes the manner in which he effected the arrest of the Juvaraj. The fifteenth witness, Yeukaba, states that the Tangal General said to him: "The Juvaraj before this told you to give the Shahibs over to the executioners, why have you not done it?"

The sixteenth and the last witness examined for the prosecution was Captain Butcher, who said that he received orders to arrest the Juvaraj on the night of 23rd March, that he was not to fire unless the Manipuris fired on him, that the Juvaraj's men fired first, that he saw no women nor children in the palace enclosure during the day, that the Juvaraj's temple was knocked about by his own guns, that his party did not damage the temple beyond what was necessary for defence, that he did not see the Juvaraj fighting that day, and that there were no sepoys placed on watch near the palace on the night of the 23rd.

The Charge.

The following charges were then framed and read to the Juvaraj, who pleaded "Not guilty":—The Court hereby charge you, Tikendrajit Sing, *alias* Juvaraj, *alias* Senapati of Manipur:—1st count, that you on or about the 24th of March, 1891, in Manipur, waged war against the Queen-Empress, and thereby committed an offence punishable with death or transportation for life; 2nd count, that you on or about the 24th of March, 1891, in Manipur, abetted the offence of murder, *viz.*, the murder of Mr. Quinton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, Colonel Skene, of the 42nd Goorkha Regiment, Lieutenant Simpson, of the 43rd Goorkha Regiment, and Mr. Cossins, Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, and thereby committed an offence punishable with death or transportation for life, offences within cognisance of this Court, and directs you (Tikendrajit Singh) to be tried on the said charges."

The defence was to commence on Saturday last. The Juvaraj has prepared a statement to be laid before the Court with the aid of a Bengali Pleader, named Janaki Nath Bysack, who is to be paid a fee of Rs. 1,000 in advance.

THE FINALE OF THE BENARES TEMPLE CASE.

SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN has passed final orders on the Benares Temple Case, in a very long Resolution issued by the North-West Secretariat. His Honor reviews all the incidents in connection with the acquisition of the temple site for the water-works, and severely condemns the action of the people in taking the law into their own hands, and creating a disturbance. We readily admit there was no justification for the riot which occurred on the 15th April; but the papers now published throw a flood of light on the whole course of the proceedings of the Municipality and the Local Government in regard to this affair, and prove to demonstration that the people had received grave provocation before they broke the peace. The reasons which determined the choice of the site of the pumping station, we are told, were as follow:—(1) That the estimated compensation for lands and buildings on this site was the least, as compared to all other proposed sites; (2) that the site was recommended by the Public Works and Sanitary authorities; (3) that it was situated at a convenient distance of the distributing station at Bhelupura. Now every sensible and unprejudiced person will see clearly that these reasons should have carried no weight with the Municipal Commissioners when they knew that the choice of this site would necessitate the demolition of a temple, which, Mr. White admits, is an ancient shrine. Another site for the pumping station might have been chosen, though the adoption of this course would have caused the expenditure of a little more money on account of compensation. Mr. White would have the public believe that the riot was clearly prompted by a strong popular prejudice against modern improvements and the taxation involved thereby. But this view is not borne out by the papers which have been placed before the public. Raja Siva Prasad, in the memorandum submitted by him, writes in plain terms;—"The more I hear, the more convinced I am that the cause of the riot was the temple." There can be no manner of doubt that the Raja is quite right. Shortly after the acquisition of the site for the pumping station an article appeared in the *Bharat Jiwan* in which it was distinctly stated:—"The fate of the temple causes great anxiety to the Hindus, and reminds them of the Darbhanga incident. Had the temple been a mosque, thousands of Mussulmans would have readily sacrificed their lives in its defence. Government had better tell the Hindus that the temple will not be interfered with and re-assure the public mind." The attention of the Magistrate, Mr. White, having been drawn to the article in the *Bharat Jiwan*, he remarked "that an agitation is being maintained, chiefly by the Rani of Agooi Bashar and certain Gujrati banias to prevent the removal of this *small but ancient shrine*." But in a subsequent report Mr. White wrote to the Commissioner:—"The Special Committee [of Municipal Commissioners] has decided the amount of compensation which should be given, and so far as the undersigned can understand, there is no substantial reason why the temple should not be removed. The Special Committee has given Rs. 500 for the expenses of moving the idol and reconsecrating it in a new shrine. Raja Siva Prasad has informed the undersigned that he can prove that the idol was originally in another locality and was brought here some considerable time ago. Undersigned has no intention of proceeding hastily, as the petitioners openly threaten him with the fate of the late Collector of Darbhanga."

This was written on the 15th January last, and on the 5th February it was resolved at a special meeting of the Municipal Commissioners that the Resident Engineer be instructed to proceed with the levelling of the site and demolition of all buildings with the exception of the actual shrine. What the real object of this resolution was has been clearly explained by Babu Biressur Mitter in his Memorandum. He says:—"There is a general belief that the Municipal Commissioners intended by their Resolution of the 5th February that during the rains the building would fall down of itself as the ground all round had been excavated several feet below the foundation. I will not deny that such an impression existed in their minds and might even have been audibly expressed. But there is more in it than appears on the surface of it. It has been stated by the Pandits that, in the case of a building falling down by such a natural cause as an encroachment of river, there may be reconsecration of the idol. It can hardly be doubted that if a portion of such a building fell down by the action of the rains, the crumbling brick would be removed and repaired." This injunction of the *Shastras*, we need hardly say, does not apply to a case like this. It is intended to meet such cases that arise from what may be justly described as "acts of God." But here the Municipal Commissioners deliberately excavated the ground all round the temple several feet below its foundations, so that the shrine might fall down of itself so soon as the rains began. The argument that the injunction of the *Shastras* quoted by Babu Biressur Mitter applies to a case of this kind, is an insult to common sense. It is really very strange that the Municipal Commissioners of Benares should have passed the Resolution of the 5th February after they had acknowledged what Raja Siva Prasad calls "the immovality of the temple." Mr. White wrote before the special meeting of the 5th February last:—"If the shrine be left in tact there would not be much objection." And yet the Municipal Commissioners, in Raja Siva Prasad's language, "determined to see the temple removed by some pretext or other, such as digging up the foundation, breaking up the stair-cases, closing up the gates, preventing and annoying the worshippers from going and coming, &c., &c." Was not this a downright mockery? The shrine was to be left in tact, and yet the ground round it was to be excavated several feet below the foundation so that the building would fall down of itself during the rains. A Bengali proverb says:—"I will not oust you from your house, but will only plough your court-yard." The Municipal Commissioners of Benares apparently acted in the spirit of this proverb in passing their Resolution of the 5th February; and we really wonder that this extraordinary decision should have commended itself to the approval of Government. Sir Auckland Colvin, in the teeth of the facts mentioned above, holds that the conduct of those who were dissatisfied with the decision of the Municipality, admits of no palliation. His Honor observes:—"No desecration of their idol was contemplated; no immediate or even early interference with the temple was intended. The Municipality acted with due deliberation, and with the necessary regard to the wishes of those chiefly concerned." These observations speak for themselves and hardly require any comment. It should also be borne in mind that of the twelve Municipal Com-

missioners who voted for the Resolution of the 5th February two were Christians and four were Mahomedans. The remaining six members were undoubtedly Hindus; but their desire to ingratiate themselves into the good graces of the executive got the better of their judgment, and they formed themselves veritable *ap ke wastes*.

There can be no doubt that these gentlemen did not correctly represent the views and feelings of their constituents in this matter. At the general election held in March several new members were returned to the Board who were averse to the removal of the idol and shrine. On the 10th of April fourteen Commissioners presented an application asking for reconsideration of the Resolution of 5th February at a special meeting of the Board. An ordinary meeting of the Commissioners was held on the 15th of April, and somehow the people came to believe that the temple case would be re-opened at the meeting. Under this belief a large crowd was collected in the compound of the Town Hall. Sir Auckland Colvin says that the people should have waited till the result of the special meeting was known, but that instead of doing so when they found that their grievances were not dealt with at the ordinary meeting of the 15th April, they proceeded immediately to riot. But we must not forget that the whole course of the proceedings of the Municipality and the Government has filled them with great excitement. Raja Siva Prasad has put the case very ably in his Memorandum of which mention has been made above. He writes:—"This [the Resolution of 5th February] the people did not like. They went up to the Government, but, as I hear, the Government referred them to the Municipality. They thought that the meeting of the 15th was only for this purpose, and collected at the Town Hall to watch the proceedings of the Board. A few kind words to the assembled people, that the temple question was to be decided on the 20th would have prevented the mischief; but the Board did not think of this, and the crowd left the Town Hall much annoyed and exasperated. They went towards the temple, perhaps giving out that the temple is to be demolished; thereby making the shopkeepers to close their shops, and swelling their numbers. A police guard was posted at the temple, who, I hear, prevented them from entering it; so the riot commenced. Ignorance is the mother of mischief. They did not know what to do." From what has been said above it is as clear as the sun at midday that the people had received grave provocation before they took the law into their hands and created a disturbance. And yet Sir Auckland Colvin has thought fit, with a view "to bring home to the people of Benares a sense of their folly," to exclude them from the temple. The temple will be allowed to remain *in situ*, and during the progress of the water-works priests will be admitted to it for worship on permanent passes, but the public is to be excluded so long as the works are under construction; and on their completion it will rest with the Government to decide on what conditions, if any, the public will be admitted to the temple. We hope very earnestly that the Supreme Government will reverse Sir Auckland Colvin's most unwise decision in the Benares Temple case.

PRESENTS TO PUBLIC SERVANTS.

THE Bombay Government has found it necessary to record a Resolution on the subject which heads this article. The Government of the Western Presidency published, fifteen years ago, a summary of the laws and rules relating to this matter, and circulated it to all officers employed in the Political Department. The rules then published provided an exemption in favour of the "receipt of a few flowers or fruits and articles of inappreciable value, although even such trifling presents should be discouraged." A Political Officer of high standing in the Bombay Presidency recently suggested that this exemption should be further limited to fruits or flowers locally grown, and a prohibition against the regular daily receipt of even such fruits inserted. This suggestion led the Governor in Council to consider whether any addition to the existing rules regarding the acceptance of presents by public servants is required. After a careful consideration of the question Lord Harris and his Councellors have arrived at the conclusion that no addition or alteration in the rules is necessary, but that it would be sufficient to recall attention to them and to the spirit which underlies them. "The spirit of the orders of Government," they observe, "is to discourage the receipt of all presents, and only to permit the receipt of occasional offerings of fruits or flowers, where such offerings cannot be rejected without causing offence. At the same time the Governor in Council thinks that the time has come when every ruler of a Native State might be furnished with a copy of the orders of Government, and this Resolution may be given accordingly. A copy should also be furnished to every officer in the Political Department of this Government." Rulers of Native States are fully aware that Government servants are prohibited from accepting presents, with the exception of occasional offerings of fruits or flowers. But they also know very well that there are many officers who honour this rule more in the breach than in the observance. This fact is so notorious throughout the country that it cannot be denied.

On the 31st of May 1873 the Bombay Government issued a circular to all Political Officers, ordering them to pay without fail for all supplies and transport furnished them by Native States, and this order was repeated in 1877. The Resolution under notice says:—"Where an officer must depend on the assistance of the Durbar for his supplies, he must request the Durbar to appoint dealers from whom the articles required can be procured for proper payment. It is to be understood the grass or fodder or free supplies for the table of officers staying in State bungalows, for however short a time, are absolutely and expressly prohibited. In any case where a Political Officer visits the capital of a Native State in the course of his tour he is bound to supply himself with all that he requires. In the case of rapid journeys, occasionally undertaken for special service, where the official's own transport is obviously insufficient and no other transport can be obtained, the Durbar may occasionally lend a carriage. An absolute prohibition to use such means, where no other means are procurable, might cause injury to the public service; but in future Government desire that, just as in the case of the sale of horses to a durbar, the fact should be specially reported to them. The use of any Durbar carriage will thus be restricted to the rarest occasions and the narrowest limits; and officers will under no circumstances be allowed to live in State bungalows at the cost of the Durbar for their supplies." Then in 1878 the Bombay Government recorded a Resolution which prohibited the furnishing of residences at the cost of Durbars. And in 1887 a circular was issued which forbade the subordinates of Political Agents to receive free quarters. The present Resolution declares that all orders that apply to Political Officers will have equal application to their subordinates, and lays down:—"It is clear that in Native States where *dharmsalas* or other places for the convenience of the Agency servants are not available, permission when on tour to occupy other quarters need not be refused. What is required is to secure as far as possible the independence of British officers and their subordinates; and, therefore, every Political Agent must be personally held responsible that the spirit of these orders is duly observed. Government is confident that the Rulers of Native States will not regard the enforcement of these orders as any act of discourtesy, but rather will consider it an act of necessary courtesy to Government to assist it in the execution of its declared policy, which is mainly devised in the interests of the Native States themselves." We must confess we do not share the confidence which has been expressed by the Government of Bombay in the foregoing passage. It is hardly necessary to say that Rulers of Native States cannot be expected to assist in the execution of the declared policy of Government in this matter so long as Political Officers are ready to disobey its orders. The simple truth is that no feudatory Chief can afford to incur the displeasure of the representative of the Paramount Power accredited to his Court. He knows very well that he is absolutely at the mercy of the Political officer deputed to watch and control his proceedings. Sad experience has taught the Native Princes of India that the Foriegn Office always accepts the reports of its Agents for gospel truth. So long as this conviction is not removed from the minds of the Rulers of Native States, it is idle to hope that they will come forward to co-operate with the Government in enforcing the orders relating to the acceptance of presents by public servants. This is as clear as the most elementary proposition.

It will be seen that the orders embodied in the Resolution under notice apply to Political Officers and their subordinates. But we are strongly of opinion that these orders should be extended to public servants employed in British India. The Government must not suppose that there is no necessity for the application of the rules relating to the receipt of presents to officers in British territory. We are ready to admit that in districts which are directly under English rule there is some check on the actions of public servants. They know very well that if they did anything improper their proceedings would be exposed. But there are still many parts of the country in which public opinion does not exist at all, and these Government servants can do many things without fear or risk of exposure. It is notorious that in many instances when public servants are in tour in the interior of their districts they procure the article required for their use and that of their subordinates without any payment or, at any rate, without proper payment. In this way the tours of public servants which are intended to do good to the people become a source of serious inconvenience and loss to them. Then, the practice of borrowing carriages, horses elephants &c. by public servants in the Mofussil of British India is so notorious that it requires nothing beyond bare mention. It is therefore most desirable that the operation of the orders embodied in the Resolution of the Bombay Government under notice should be extended to public servants in British India.

RAILWAY TO KANDAHAR.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Pioneer* has in a recent issue of that paper, discussed the question of continuing the Chaman Extension Railway to Kandahar. He takes it for granted that if certain eventualities occurred, such as internal disturbances in Afghanistan or any movement of Russia in Trans-Caspia, the Government of India will surely connect Kandahar with its Railway system on the North-Western Frontier. Proceeding upon this assumption, the writer in the *Pioneer* says:—"That the line will be made one day is a matter of certainty, but whether as a peaceful measure or a warlike one it is now the time for the Government to determine; it must be decided once for all whether it were better to make the line when the whole country is well disposed towards the British, in which case the railway would be a harbinger of such peace and plenty to Afghanistan as it has never before known; or on the other hand is it the intention to wait until troubles—black and dark—loom once more over Central Asia, as assuredly they will, and the animosities of a fanatical people are re-kindled at the thought that it is on a warlike mission and with the deliberate intention of annexation that the railway is being made, in which case it would be constructed against the fiercest opposition and at the greatly enhanced cost? At the present moment every thing is ready for the extension; the rails, slippers and other materials are all bought, paid for and tacked at Chaman, and the engineers merely waited the word 'forward.'"

It is amusing to observe the naivete with which the writer in the *Pioneer* assumes that the Afghans are *now* well disposed towards the British. This assumption, we need hardly say, is utterly unfounded. The simple truth is that

the Afghan people have no love for the British. They recognise, in a way, the prestige attaching to the continuance of friendship with a great Power, but they are not prepared to make any sacrifice for the preservation of this friendship. The Afghans, and indeed all Asiatic people, look upon the British with feelings of profound suspicion and mistrust. They have seen that the English originally came out to India, and then annexed province after province by one or other of the strokes of injustice which have too often accompanied their acquisition of power in India. It is the firm conviction of every Afghan that if he allowed the English to obtain a footing in his country they would eventually annex it on some pretext or other. It should by this time be distinctly known to the British that though the Amir of Afghanistan may coquet with the English or the Russian, his unruly subjects will go their way. Moreover, the British should clearly understand that their two Afghan wars have made an honest alliance with the people of Afghanistan utterly impossible. It must not be forgotten that at the Rawal Pindi Durbar, held in the spring of 1885, Abdur Rahman gave a broad hint to Lord Dufferin, that the Afghans would rather lose some of their territory than allow the English to go to their country as their allies. This fact alone is sufficient to show the feeling which the Afghans entertain towards the British.

The writer in the *Pioneer*, in advocating the continuance of the Chaman Extension Railway to Kandahar does not confine himself to military considerations. He contends that on commercial grounds alone the arguments in favour of the construction of this railway are numerous and unanswerable. He observes :—"That an elaborate system of frontier railway should have been constructed at an enormous expense for four hundred miles, only to stop short in the air within sixty miles of the only place likely to bring sufficient traffic to the line to enable it to pay its working expenses, appears from the taxpayer's point of view a most unbusiness-like proceeding. While English merchants are agitating for their extension of railways in India and the opening up of new markets for their products, they would do well to see that they are not losing markets which they used to possess, and whether *this* is not the cause of the present slackness of trade. That we really are losing ground commercially in Central Asia a perusal of the trade-reports, both Indian and Russian, establishes beyond a doubt." It would no doubt be desirable to have the iron horse run to Kandahar ; but this cannot be done without the consent of the Afghans, and we may rest assured that they will not give their consent. The writer in the *Pioneer* sees that the sanction of the Amir is the only element wanting for the construction of the railway to Kandahar. And he then goes on to say :—"The Amir should be clearly given to understand that it is the intention of the Indian Government to make the line whether he likes it or not. Undoubtedly he would object, or at least affect to do so, but whether the opposition would be genuine or merely with the idea of making us pay handsomely for the concession is not so certain. His enterprise in Kabul lately has shown that he is fully alive to the benefits to be derived from nineteenth century civilizations, and he is shrewd enough that a railway to Kandahar would be instrumental in developing and increasing to an enormous extent the wealth and importance of the western portion of his dominions, while at the same time it must be clear to him that if he wishes to keep the friendship and obtain the assistance and protection of the Indian Government in his hour of need, it would be folly on his part to oppose any scheme which that Government consider advisable for the safety of his kingdom, and that instead of being a menace or an event to give him cause for apprehension, it in reality increases our power of assisting him against Russian aggression." All this may be very true from the British standpoint ; but the Afghan cannot be expected to view the matter in this light. The writer in the *Pioneer* and those who think with him may rest assured that the Amir will never accord his sanction to the continuance of the Chaman Extension Railway to Kandahar or to the construction of any line of railway in any part of his dominions. And should the Government of India insist to build the railway to Kandahar without the Amir's consent, grave difficulties and danger would be sure to arise. The adoption of the policy with regard to the Kandahar Railway recommended by the writer in the *Pioneer* would undoubtedly be the height of unwisdom. I cannot be too carefully borne in mind that no Amir of Afghanistan will accept the position of a protected Indian Prince.

Latest News and Notes.

THE Viceroy, Lady Lansdowne, Lady Evelyn, Lord Charles Fitzmaurice, Dr. Fenn and Captain Herbert, A.D.C., will leave Simla tomorrow for a ten days' trip to Narkanda.

THE *Englishman* considers it most probable that His Excellency the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne will leave Simla in September for a short tour in the Central Provinces, and then proceed to Calcutta, after which Burma will probably be visited.

IT is announced that the third Criminal Sessions of the Calcutta High Court will be held on Wednesday, the 8th of July. Pressure of work in the Appellate side has called away Mr. Justice Hill, and since Wednesday last there has been no double court in the Original side. The second court will, however, continue its sittings on the 22nd insant, when Mr. Justice Wilson returns from Darjeeling, till such time we suppose as the maginary arrears are cleared off.

THE latest suggestion for reforming the Small Cause Court is the appointment of Honorary Judges on the model of Honorary Magistrates. The experiment is to be tried in the mofussil, if successful in Calcutta. The idea is not a bad one so long as the bigger cases are restored to the High Court. But the appointments will have to be made with great care.

THE Police Committee are said to have completed their report. Being rather voluminous it will take some little time in publication. We trust the contained will be equal to the container, at least in interest and importance. Terrific-looking statistics scare away enquirers and Commissions and Committees very effectively serve in stopping all troublesome enquiry in this and other fashions.

WE are credibly informed that Mr. Westmacott does not officiate as Presidency Commissioner in the place of Mr. Smith in addition to his own duties. The Excise Commissionership will be given to Mr. K. G. Gupta, the able and popular Secretary of the Board of Revenue. There was opposition, we are told, to the appointment in official circles, as a native is not considered good enough for the office. Sir Charles Elliott however with his characteristic strength and fairness over-ruled the objection and will give Mr. Gupta a trial. We sincerely congratulate him on this well deserved promotion. Mr. Westmacott acts for Mr. Smith as arranged.

THE hint in the Press has been taken up and select members of the Calcutta Police are to be armed with six-chambered revolvers to meet contingencies like those in connection with the recent riots. Sufficient precautions will of course be taken against abuse.

THE *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has received a telegram from England to the effect that Mr. Digby is dangerously ill with influenza. We are glad to learn, however, that he is favourably progressing.

A LARGE public meeting of influential Mahomedans and Hindus, attended by representatives from Surat, Amedabad, and other places, was held at Bombay on Monday last, in the open *maidan* near the Victoria Gardens to adopt a memorial to Parliament against the Age of Consent Act. Rao Bahadur Nana Moroji, ex-Dewan, Indore, ex-Presidency Magistrate, and Chairman of the Madhab Bag Meeting, proposed that Moulvi Hidayatulla, one of the most influential Mahomedans of Bombay, some time Turkish Consul, should take the chair. A Memorial was read in English, Gujerati, and Marathi, and was unanimously adopted. An influential Committee was appointed to carry out the objects of the meeting, and to collect funds. The proceedings lasted for about two hours, and were very orderly and enthusiastic.

THE Shambazar riot cases were partly gone through again on Monday. But not much progress was made.

DISTURBANCE of another and of an unique character has taken place in the Punjab at a cantonment station called Chakrata. European soldiers fought with each other for reasons not yet explained and one is said to have been killed and six seriously wounded. It is supposed to be an affray between Irish and English soldiers. With troubles in almost every part of the Empire, Lord Lansdowne, who is said to be poorly in health, must have a most anxious time of it.

TABLES are said to have been turned in the Buxar affair and the Musulman Inspector under whose orders Hindus were fired upon is not to be placed on his trial, while Hindu offenders are to be severely punished. This is hardly credible, if Sir Charles Elliott has any thing to do with it.

THE Hackney Carriage Bill has fresh troubles in store for the Calcutta public, at least the lower strata of it that have to use the "Third class." It is notorious that this is the class that has the largest margin of profit, inspite of which carriages, horses and harnesses are kept up in a condition that is a disgrace to the city. Without prescribing anything for its improvement and leaving every thing to the discretion of the registering officer, the Bill provides for enhancement of its fares by 25 per cent. This, it is needless to say, will be a great hardship on the classes using it and whose number is a legion. Strangely enough the Hackney Carriage Committee of the Calcutta Municipality have also supported this provision, although Nawab Abdul Latif Bahadur, Babu Lal Behary Bysak and others who know the facts thoroughly protested against the enhancement very strongly. It was argued that simultaneous call for improvement in second and third class carriages without enhancement of fare would be hard, because many of the latter would be thrown out altogether and many of the former would be reduced to the latter by stringent rules and strict supervision. This is a fallacy, for the owners of the "second classes" and "third classes" are for the most part different, and this argument does not at all apply. It was exactly on logic of this description that the improvement of third class hackeries has been deferred *sine die*, as the idea was that improvement of second and third classes could not be taken up all at once, on the supposition that they were owned by the same persons. We are, however, now in this predicament that third class carriages are as wretched as ever, and we have to pay 25 per cent more for the luxury of free galvanic shocks than before. The Chairman or those who supported him, never use this description of conveyances and to them it does not matter much if the fares are increased. Any enhancement in the second class rates would have been met by an outcry, in which the *saheb loges* would heartily join because they would feel the 'burden.' The various intricate technicalities of the new Bill, which we do not purpose to deal with at present, will make *Chakarwalla* more insolent and implacable than ever. Although prosecutions and punishments have been provided for in every

nstance few but *Sahibs*, whether European or native, will care to resort to them and the evils existing will only be aggravated. It was, therefore, very properly suggested that upon complaints made the Commissioners and their officers should have power to deal with delinquents. The proposal has found large support in the Committee and as it will make efficient administration of the Act possible it will be represented to the legislature which, we trust, will take due note of it. The general body of Commissioners has not endorsed the whole-and-corner recommendations of the Committee, but wisely decided to go into the matter carefully and as a whole.

IT is stated that steps are being taken to form an Imperial Library for the use of all the Government departments when in Calcutta. The library is to be placed in the Home Office, and promises to be valuable. Many rare and important works which are now scattered about in the libraries of the various Secretariats and smaller offices are being collected as a nucleus of the projected library. We do not know whether this will meet with the approval of those who opposed the bettering of the Calcutta Public Library tooth and nail for which, by the way, the Calcutta Corporation has just sanctioned another 8000 Rs. Since all the 250 millions of Her Majesty's British Indian subjects could or could not possibly be benefited by the projected library, this literary outlay at the rate-payers' expense would according to the new school of logic be unjustifiable. Yet the institution would be a very useful one if it was not exclusively set apart for official use, but was accessible to the public under certain conditions. The works that are sure to find place in the Imperial Library would scarcely be in libraries of ordinary pretensions and Government patronage would go a greater way in enhancing the usefulness of such an institution than any amount of private liberality or enterprise. If we cannot have the British Museum in our midst all at a time, there is no reason why between the Public Library and the Imperial Library, Calcutta should not have some near approach to it.

THE Birth day levee at Simla was very well attended. 270 European and ten Native gentlemen passed before His Excellency. Ten new representations were made. With regard to the omission of the only State ceremonial in Calcutta. in connection with the Birthday, it is said, that Mr. Lee had the frankness to tell the Commissioners at a previous meeting of the General Committee that having regard to his finances he would not be able to do the honors of the occasion. This will appear in the official proceeding also we are told. The *Indian Daily News* devotes a leaderette in defence of the Chairman. It is in the "now don't" fashion, and we for ourselves quite accept it. Says the *News* after quoting our remarks in the last issue :—

Such remarks are very unfair and ungenerous towards the Chairman. It is not to be supposed that he would put any slight upon the city, or neglect a ceremonial gathering on the Queen's Birthday *because* the Commissioners had not increased his salary. It does not require twelve times Rs. 500 to provide tea and pegs at a garden party once a year. And the Chairman would have no right to resent the action of Commissioners in the way indicated. If the salary allowed is not sufficient, there is an obvious remedy. What the reason for the omission of the usual garden party may be we are not aware. Perhaps there is not convenience in the present "Mansion House" or there may be various reasons for the omission. The city is practically deserted; and as there is "nobody here," it may not have been thought worth while to offer him a reception. This is one of the mysteries of the age, which we leave to the solution of those who may feel interested.

As to the argument of 'no body here' our readers will know what to think of it.

A MEETING which was attended by two thousand persons has been held in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, the Vice-Chancellor of the University presiding, in aid of the movement inaugurated by Lady Dufferin for providing female medical aid to the women of India. Lady Dufferin addressed the meeting and gave a hopeful account of the work which had already been done. Lady Dufferin does not mean to leave her good and noble work incomplete. She is hard at work to enlist sympathy in England by way of supplementing the resources in India, considerably large as they are.

HIS Imperial Highness the Cesarewitch has arrived in Siberia, and has opened the first portion of the Ussuri section of the Siberian Railway.

MR. FARRAN has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused in the Bombay High Court by the retirement of Mr. Justice Scott. The appointment is very popular in public as well as in legal circles. The Bombay Presidency Association recommended the appointment very strongly.

THE inquest on the Rajabai Tower mystery at Bombay has been concluded. After an exhaustive summing up by the Coroner, the jury by a majority of eight to one has found that Buchubai died from injuries received in throwing herself from the tower in consequence of an attempted outrage upon her by some person or persons unknown, and that to this outrage Manockji Aslaji was privy, under such circumstances that the act of such person or persons unknown, and of Manockji Aslaji was culpable homicide not amounting to murder. With reference to Perozebai, they found that she died from injuries received through being thrown from the Tower by Manockji Aslaji in order to destroy evidence of his complicity in an attempted outrage on her by some person or persons unknown, and under such circumstances that the act of Manockji Aslaji was culpable homicide amounting to murder. The result of the trial will, however, be watched with interest as the evidence in the inquest has been of a conflicting character thoro ughout.

THERE were persistent rumours in Bombay last week that the Mahomedans of the city meditated an attack upon the Parsees on Friday, after prayers at the Jumma Musjid, in revenge for the confident assertion made by them that two Mahomedans are concerned in the death of the two Parsee girls who fell or were thrown from the Rajabai Tower of the University. As the police were, however, on the alert the threatened riot did not take place. But according to the Bombay correspondent of the *Statesman* there are unmistakeable signs of angry feeling between the two communities. The offices which employ many Parsees were short-handed on Friday. How easily do our Moslem friends take fire!

HIS Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda has given a donation of £100 to the Congress on Hygiene and Demography. Lord Reay, Sir Arthur Gordon, Sir Steuart Bayley, Sir William Hunter, Mr. James Maclean, and Mr. Bhownugree have joined the Committee of the Congress. The *Lancet* urges that Native experts should be sent to the Congress as Indian delegates at public expense, and the Secretary of State for India has suggested to the Viceroy that this shall be done. This has given a fresh impetus to the movement.

THE Municipal Commissioners are looking out for some native representative for the Congress of Hygeine and will bear his expenses. No better selection could be made than Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, C.I.E., that is, if he could be induced to go.

MR. P. C. LAHA, the second Bengali balloonist will take to parachuting again. He has just imported from England a large balloon with all the latest improvements. Babu Ram Chunder Chatterjee is giving his exhibitions very successfully in western India.

THE Fairlie Place Offices or "House" of the E. I. R. Company are to be extended right up to the Strand,

IN the case of Champa Bibee and another against Dharanee Babu and another, in which among other things a wife claimed maintenance, Mr. Justice Trevelyan, before whom the case came up on Friday last, observed :—

I do not see how the wife can get maintenance except by the means provided in the Criminal Procedure Code. This class of suit is a novel one, and if I introduce this new source of litigation between wives and husbands, the consequences may be disastrous. Quite enough innovations tending to break up the Hindu joint family have been introduced already. Surely the wife cannot sue for maintenance unless her right to it has been denied by the husband.

But who cares for the preservation of the Hindu joint family system now-a-days?

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON, replying to a question in the House of Commons regarding a report which has been revived, that the British had promised to protect the Italian coasts against the French, said that her Majesty's Government had entered into no engagement pledging the employment of the Army or Navy in any contingency, but agrees with Italy in desiring that the existing situation in the Mediterranean should remain unchanged. The sympathies of Great Britain, he said, were on the side of those who maintain that policy.

THE issue of an Indian Sterling loan of £2,600,000 is announced, the minimum being fixed at £92. Tenders will be received up to the 10th of June.

WE readily make room for the following :—

SIR,—Will you do me a favour by publishing my contradiction to a rumour that I was a party to a disturbance in the *Star Theatre* on Saturday last. It appears that a gentleman of my name, but of different initials, assumed my name for the occasion for purposes best known to himself. He called to apologise for his conduct to me on Monday last.

I remain your obdient Servant,
J. N. BANNERJBA.

Mr. Bannerjea, who was in good practice in England, has just come out to settle down here and is a highly promising advocate. We are sorry that his name should even for a short time have been mixed up with an unpleasant affair. He is a brother of our friend Babu Surendranath Bannerjea.

PERSISTENT complaints against the Incenerator, headed by the *Indian Daily News*, have proved successful. At a meeting of the General Committee of the Corporation on Saturday last its work was ordered to be stopped *for the present*. There is an idea yet to waste more of the rate-payer's money on similar experiments in Dakhuria as if no nuisance would be felt there. Dr. Simpson, heedless of expenses and consequences as usual, had wanted the Incenerator in the heart of Barabazar, and it is a matter of congratulation that he did not succeed. That the refuse is burnt well seems to be pretty clear and in the interest of public health we could have wished the experiment to have been tried in some more suitable locality.

WITH deep regret we have to announce to our readers the death of our esteemed townsman Babu Ambica Churn Bose. The deceased, who was distinguished alike for the qualities of his head and heart, was one of the most successful Vakils of the High Court and his forte was criminal law in which he was a thorough adept. His colleagues and the Judges held him in high respect and his numerous clients had always reason to be proud of his abilities and thankful for the consideration they uniformly met in his hands. Many an innocent victim of conspiracy escaped ill deserved ignominy and punishment through his advocacy, and many lives were saved that but for his advocacy would have been unwarrantably sacrificed on the gallows. He was the representative of the well-known Bose family of Khorope, in the District of Hooghly. His public spirit and thorough independence of character added to his aimiability, made him deservedly popular and his fellow-villagers had every reason to bless his memory for many works of public benefaction. He closely identified himself with the District Board of Howrah ever since its creation and

devoted his energies and resources for making its operations a success. He was suffering from a complication of maladies and his life was for some time despaired of. Latterly, however, a change was made in the treatment and hopes were entertained of his recovery. These were rudely dispelled early on Saturday morning when he succumbed. The death of his beloved wife which had taken place but a few days ago gave a shock to his shattered constitution from which he never recovered. His comparatively premature death is deeply mourned by a large circle of friends and relatives, to whom we venture to offer sincere condolence.

IN the Benares riot the examination of witnesses for the defence concluded on Friday, including the evidence on behalf of Lachman Das and Raghunath Dass. Saturday was taken up in hearing the arguments of Counsel, and the Judge's charge to the Jury will be delivered to-day. For Girija Prasad, five witnesses deposed that on the day of the riots, he was confined to his house from indisposition. On behalf of Rameswar Dutt, another accused, Pandit Ganga Sahai, Private Secretary to Maharaja Partab Narayan Singh of Ajudhia, testified to his having been presented with a shawl similar to the one in Court, but the witness could not swear to that being the identical one. The trial did not made much progress owing to the illness of Lala Gobordhun Das, who could not attend Court for sometime being confined to bed in the Jail hospital. He was, however, present in Court, on Thursday, and the examination of his witnesses was proceeded with. Two of them proved that on the day of the riots he was at the Civil Court till eleven A.M., while others deposed that he reached home before twelve and, after his meal, was engaged in business with a banker till the people in the street brought the news of the attack on Raja Shiva Prasad's house. The banker, whose house was near the Raja's, is said to have hurried away in alarm for the safety of his own place.

THE cry is still they come. A Benares telegram to the *Englishman* on Thursday announced as follows :—

Yesterday, (2 June) on the receipt of a telegram a body of police was despatched from here to Mirzapur, where a disturbance was apprehended in connection with a temple dispute between two factions.

A pleader mentioned in Court this morning that a client of his had received a letter from a friend in Mirzapur to the effect that rioting took place yesterday, and that the Government Treasury was looted. This is evidently sensational and lacks confirmation.

The latest news, however, is that no rioting took place, owing to the Magistrate taking prompt measures and placing the ringleaders of the opposing factions in custody.

SOME further frontier disturbances may also be in store for us. The old quarrels in Nagar have been renewed and some malcontents threaten to oust the Cashmere garrison from Chalt and Chaprote. Lieutenant-Colonel Durand, British Agent at Gilgit, has gone to Chaprote to see to this matter.

THE *Statesman* has unintentionally, let us hope, done a grievous injustice to the Land Acquisition Collector of the Calcutta Corporation. This has not been done once but repeatedly, and we think it our duty to disabuse our contemporary of the misconception he is labouring under, owing to distorted facts having been placed before him. In a recent issue our contemporary said :—

In consequence of the action of the Land Acquisition Officer in taking up the lands near the Hooghly Bridge from the first, the shops of the lessees were vacated at a much earlier date than would otherwise have been necessary ; and if common sense and a very ordinary idea of justice had prevailed with this officer, he would have at once proceeded to settle the compensation for the lands in the order in which they were originally acquired. But, for some inexplicable reason, he has determined to begin at the wrong end of the new road, where land is of considerably less value than in the vicinity of the Hooghly Bridge. As a consequence of this official's unaccountable proceedings, the lessees are threatened by the lessor with a suit for arrears of rent on account of land, of which they have been mostly dispossessed.

The proceedings though certainly harsh and unjust on those concerned, are not at all unaccountable so far as the officer is concerned. Our contemporary can generally see things through and the explanation is contained in his own observations that follow :—

The Central Road Committee, of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation might, if it chose, afford them relief. This Committee, we are told by *Hope*, at the meeting of the 13th April last, asked for an explanation from the Collector of the unusual delay in settling the claims of the lessees ; but no explanation has yet been submitted, nor is it known whether the Collector means to offer any. What prevents the Committee from ordering the Collector to take up this pressing claim and disposing of it at once as an exceptional case? Is it incapable of such an effort? It seems to us that, if it knew its duty, and were firm enough to do it, it would at once direct the Land Acquisition Officer to settle the compensation for the lands in the order in which they were acquired, as land towards the Hooghly Bridge is decidedly of greater value than in the direction of Sealdah. The action that has been taken with regard to the lessees in the present case would positively seem to have been adopted with a view to their harassment and loss ; or what could have prevented the Collector from deciding this claim a year ago? A Land Acquisition Officer is perfectly at liberty to adjudicate claims as they are perferred ; and it is worth enquiry why this course was not followed in the present instance.

Does it not strike our contemporary that this 'righteous' indignation is utterly groundless? Babu Kally Churn Ghose is well known to be a conscientious officer ; he is incapable of lending himself to any thing unjust or underhand, and he has not done so. The fact is, and we challenge contradiction, that he has distinct orders to commence with the "wrong end", so that the sale proceeds of the surplus land may be enough to pay for the right end. The Corporation commenced operations with money, which would not have half sufficed for the Burabazar Section alone. But with the same sum they have not only acquired but completed the Clive Street, the Machuabazar, the Putuldanga and the Sealdah Sections. The rest will now be taken up partly with the aid of the sale proceeds and partly with the approching big loan. The Collector has only to carry out the behests of his employers and it is anything but fair to single him out for abuse.

THE work of widening the junction of Bentinck-street and Chitpore-road is to be taken up immediately, we are told. That is satisfactory considering the pressure of tram and ordinary traffic in that part of the city. The setting back of the Lal Bazar Police Court by a few feet to the West, has made this improvement possible, which, we trust, will be pursued. The whole of the Chitpore Road sadly wants widening which can be done only gradually of course. But the Municipality ought to be wide awake on the subject and avail of all possible opportunities.

A PARLIAMENTARY blue-book, publishing the Manipur correspondence, reached Simla on Wednesday. The papers which have already appeared in the *Gazette of India* are given, with some additional correspondence, which does not much help in clearing up the dark points in the affair.

FURTHER papers on Manipur affairs have been published in London and relate to the proclamation concerning the capture of the Native Princes, to Mr. Grimwood's views, and the plans of the late Commissioner, Mr. Quinton, and also deal with the question of the ammunition of the escort running short.

AN eye witness has sent a communication to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* about the Manipur affair in which the follo wing occurs :—

They (Mr. Quinton's party) all went to the road-side and had a talk with the Senapati, and after a few minutes entered into the palace where the Chief did not agree with the terms, *viz.*, to leave Manipur by night, leaving arms behind. Arguments went on for two hours. In the meantime an infuriated mob assembled on all sides. The Senapati ordered his buglers "order, order," but his orders had no effect. The mob were labouring under an impression that, in their holy books it is said, that there will be a great war at Manipur which will not be won, till the blood of five of the enemies was given to certain gods, and their heads buried in certain ditch. When the Senapati ordered them to disperse, some said, "We are giving our lives only for you and you are the cause of this war ; if you still obstruct, we will kill you *too*." The Chief then wanted to return. The Senapati pointed to him the danger on the way and repeatedly told the party not to leave the palace.

Chief—Do you want to make us prisoners?

Senapati—No, I will save you at the risk of my own life, and escort you whenever you want to go ; but not now, as I cannot command my own men.

Chief—(laughed.)

Simpson—*Jhuta Bat Hai* (All false.)

Senapati—What? This is the time of war ; your life might be extinguished by one bullet as well as mine. Why should I speak "*Jhuta*" (false,) perhaps at the last moment of my life ?

Simpson—*Jhuta*.

Senapati (annoyed)—Then do as you please.

They then separated. One party left towards the right, and the other towards the left, gate.

Mr. Grimwood was stabbed first on the way. The mob then seized the Chief and others. They were seized to be killed by the public executioner.

If there be any truth in the statement the writer ought, whoever he may be, to volunteer himself for examination before the Military Court. This would give matters a serious turn.

THE *Times of India*, in commenting on the capture of the Senapati of Manipur, says :—"As to the future of the State, nothing has been definitely announced, but it is believed that neither the Government of India nor the Secretary of State is in favour of annexation ; and in that event, Manipur will resume its position of semi-independence, but under slightly altered military conditions." It is impossible to say at present what turn the Manipur affair will take. Much will depend upon the public feeling in England. There are many dark points which must be cleared, before a decision is arrived at.

THE *Englishman* and the *Pioneer* have taken considerable pains to demonstrate that two and two do not make four but something totally different from that figure. Leader after leader has been devoted to proving that there was nothing treacherous in the arrangement for inviting Tikendrajit to a *Durbar* filled with an armed host conveniently disposed of and then arresting him in the name of the law. The evidence at his trial, to which we have referred to elsewhere has been confidently appealed to as showing, that the Senapati perfectly knew what was in store for him. Of course he knew or else he would not have taken the precautions he did. Self-preservation is the first instinct whether in the barbarous Manipuri or the civilized Englishman. But that does not make the slightest difference so far as the conduct of the latter is concerned when judged by civilized standard. This is all moonshine and it is best not to urge futile and childish arguments like these, for it makes their client's case much worse in public estimation. The *Pioneer* is amusing when it invokes lexicographical aid to prove that a *Durbar* or *Derba* is the proper place for making an arrest. And as the text is not considered quite enough for his purpose he coolly proceeds to quote precedents which he does as follows :—"However, if there is still any question about the matter, His Highness the Ameer Abdur Rahman might be asked whether he considers that there is anything unbecoming in summoning a person to Durbar with a view to having him arrested, and also whether he has ever followed such procedure himself." The precedent is quite worthy of the law and the advocate which makes all comment superfluous. It is humiliating enough for an Englishman to plead Afgan doings in justification of his own acts. Truce to such advocacy for decency's sake and the fair name of Great Britain.

THE Madras official report for the past week says that the rainfall was good in Ganjam and Vizagapatam, fair in parts of Godaveri, Kishna, and Salem, nil in Anantapur, Kurnool and Madras, and slight elsewhere. The situation continues unfavourable in Chingleput and North Arcot. Coolies employed on the last day of the week were 175 in Cuddapa, 7,406 in Chingleput, 5,873 in North Arcot, 756 in Tinnevelly, 318 in Coimbatore, 186 persons are being fed in the kitchens in Chingleput, and 1,290 in North Acrot.

THE celebrated Baccarat case of England is proceeding, the Attorney-General acting for Sir Gordon Cumming. In cross-examination Sir Gordon Cumming admitted that he did nothing to clear himself of the charge brought against him until the scandal was published. He then submitted the affair to his Colonel and instituted the present action. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was called as a witness, and testified to his friendship with Sir Gordon Cumming of ten years' standing. The Prince described the events which occurred at the Wilsons' house, and said that he saw nothing of cheating, but that he was obliged to believe the unanimous statement of the accusers. General Williams gave evidence, and testified that Cumming had throughout denied his guilt, but that he (General Williams) believed the witnesses of the affair. Sir Charles Russell, replying for the defendants said that no innocent man would have signed a confession of guilt, nor so long delayed in taking action, which in the present case was only taken when Sir Gordon Cumming had failed to secure his retirement from the service on half pay. It is a pity that the heir apparent of British Empire has been dragged into Court over this discreditable affair. But in England they do and think differently in many matters from us ordinary mortals and 'barbarians.' It transpired during the proceedings that the counters used belonged to the Prince of Wales.

THE amount of caricaturing now going on in the English pictorial press regarding matters Indian, if not very flattering to the natives, at least is a good indication of the amount of interest taken in their affairs. We had our cricketing sneered at very much some time ago and it has been run down still more in the last number of the *Graphic*. The *maidan* demonstration in connection with the Consent Bill agitation was also caricatured as much as it could be. All this shows that we are progressing favourably in English public opinion as regards our sports and our methods of constitutional agitation. But the cartoon regarding the latter is not half so lively as similar pictures on Hungarian, Roman and English subjects, and thereby hangs a tale.

THE *Banganivasi* defamation case was partly gone into again on Thursday, when the Magistrate held that no evidence was admissible to show that any portion of the article complained of was meant to apply to Babu Dwarkanath Ganguly or his wife. Translations of such portions only of the articles as referred to the complaint, were allowed to be put in and the case was further adjourned.

WE wish Barrackpur joy. Colonel Hopkins now on leave does not like his Dinapur appointment and cannot bear separation from *Chanuk* long. He has, therefore, been re-appointed to the old place.

THE Star Theatre has made it up with Babu Girish Chunder Ghose. But the claim against some of its late actors who have formed the City Theatre, for damages, for infringement of copy-right and consequent injuction, is still outstanding. The rule obtained in this behalf some time ago against these actors, come up for argument on Thursday last. Mr. Pugh who appeared to show cause contended that no action of this character lies when a play is once published. This was a point which, he said, was raised and much discussed in England and America as to the right of representing unpublished plays, but a play having been published, a man had just as much right to play it in public as he had to read it. The motion was, however, not fully gone into and Messrs. Pugh and Jackson, on behalf of their respective clients, having agreed to the suggestion thrown out by Mr. Justice Trevelyan who presided, the following order was made:—'On the defendants undertaking to keep an account of the gross receipts and expenditure in respect to each performance of any one of the plays mentioned in the rule, and to file an abstract of such accounts with the Registrar of this Court once every six months, let the motion stand over for hearing.'

Correspondence

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London, May 18, 1891.

LORD SALISBURY ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

Lord Salisbury's principal topics in the speech I have recently referred to, apart from his laudation of the Promise League, were the question of the conflict between capital and labour and other social matters, the influence of these upon the pending election, and of course the Irish question. In reference to these social questions he points out what I have several times mentioned, that they are exercising considerable influence over the feelings of electors at the present moment. He thinks however that that influence is not likely to be permanent. It would seem that he means not so permanent as the Irish question which he describes as the great question which this generation has to solve; a directly opposite view to that which many people have who believe that in these social questions lie most of the difficulties which will be met with for an indefinite time to come. Lord Salisbury treats them somewhat lightly, but while admitting their importance seems to think their chief interest lies in the fact that they will obscure the real issue of Home Rule which is before all the constituencies. He insinuates, as has been done in all cases when a Home Rule candidate has been returned at bye-elections, that it is the deliberate intention of Home Rulers to obtain victories on the side-issues and then pretend they have won upon the main question. He is afraid of Home Rule being won by trick; though at the same time he professes his belief that the eyes of the electorate will not be drawn away from it by mere temporary occupation.

In any case he discounts the impending general election. If the Conseratives win, as he thinks they will, their opponents will not accept the verdict. On the other hand if the elections should go the other way, he promises that the other party shall have no rest upon the Irish question on that account. There shall be an appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober, the mistaken decision of to-day to the wiser decision of tomorrow. He is determined that the Irish question shall be with us and remain for the present generation at least. Lord Salisbury is one of those who thank God that we have a House of Lords.

I may pass over the usual common places of the Home Rule question which Lord Salisbury dealt with. There is nothing new in them. But there is one amusing passage in which he defends himself from Mr. Gladstone's taunt that he had encouraged Mr. Parnell in his struggle with his revolted followers. Lord Salisbury had certainly advised his party to put their money on Mr. Parnell; but he explains that that was not out of any love for Mr. Parnell nor any admiration for his character. He holds an equal balance between all the combatants in respect of his opinions of them and declares that if he wished to describe the character of Mr. Parnell he should use the language of Mr. Timothy Healy. If he wished to describe the character of Mr. Timothy Healy he should use the language of Mr. Parnell.

Of more importance than this witty persiflage are his remarks upon the part which the Roman Catholic priesthood has taken in the recent conflicts in Ireland which I have in a previous letter pointed out, would or might be made effective use of in influencing large classes of people more strongly against Home Rule. Lord Salisbury's words show that there will be no efforts spared to employ this weapon with the utmost effect in the contest. It is hardly a fair one especially in the hands of the party who not long ago were backing those who were using the papal rescript against the Irish party; whose strongest hope and desire was that the influence of religion should overbear the political sympathies of the people and that the Church should triumph in its conflict with their leaders. But then in politics theories are manufactured to suit the circumstances. The power of the Church is useful one time to a political party; then it lauds it. At another time it is troublesome and inconvenient: then it is a thing to be shuddered at and denounced and used as a bogy to frighten the bigoted and the foolish. At present moment this is what Lord Salisbury is doing. "We look," he says, "upon the action of the Roman Catholic Church with so much dread because it is precisely the spiritual force which she has been able to exert which by a horrible and profane distortion confers upon some of her office-bearers the power of prostituting that influence to secular ends, which are associated with some of the worst passages in the history of Ireland. It is a matter of no small congratulation that this too is being brought home to the electorate of England. What they are asked to do is to place Ireland under this hybrid secular ecclesiastical power: and in so placing Ireland they will place our brethren in the North of Ireland, who will undoubtedly receive no mercy and no consideration from this novel and monstrous power."

This is beating the drum ecclesiastic with decided vigour and it will bring up recruits as it always does. The crux of the Irish question has always been the hatred between Catholic and Protestant. If there had not been this animosity there would have been no Irish question; and if Ireland had, under that supposed condition, wanted Home Rule it would have been granted long ago. The Protestant feeling in England had abated considerably before the recent occurrences and would not have been much longer a hindrance. Now, the action of the Roman Catholic Priesthood in the struggle with Mr. Parnell is being used to revive it as we see Lord Salisbury and Sir Henry James are doing. But perhaps these tactics may be a little overdone and there are passages in Lord Salisbury's speech which will tend to open the eyes of the people whom he is addressing—I am speaking of people in the country and not of those merely who were at this particular meeting—to the tone of exaggeration in it. These people are largely the non-Conformists or non-Episcopalians of the Dissenting Churches in England and the Presbyterian Churches in Scotland, and Lord Salisbury cannot resist temptation of taunting them with somewhat of the same kind of action which he is charging against the Priesthood in Ireland. And this is the more noticeable because he flatters his own prejudices and those of his audience by assuming, with a remarkable disregard to the facts, that his own Church, the Established Church of England, is free from this vice of using its spiritual power for secular purposes. He says:—"My intention is to warn you against the danger and earnestly ask you to be alive to it if ministers of any religion shall make the influence which that religion confers upon them the means of figuring in the light of political leaders in the country. I have great reverence for the lawn sleeves and the crozier of an archbishop, but when I see behind that crozier the familiar features of Mr. Schnadhorst my reverence disappears. We have reason to complain of it at this moment among the Congregationalists of Wales, where religion is made the screen for secular education. We have some cause to complain of it I think among the Free Churchmen of the North of Scotland; but if it happened in the Church to which I myself belong I should be equally keen to denounce it." Then he proceeds to acquit his Church of any such secularization of its spiritual functions by several grotesque illustrations of clergymen in impossible attitudes of what it can only be said that they are equally impossible in the case of the ministers of any other Church.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. Goschen introduced his financial statement and proposals on the other night and he was able to announce a surplus of nearly £2,000,000 on the year's account. The year has been a prosperous one and the revenue has been increased in several ways which throw light upon this fact. For instance there has been a large addition to the consumption of alcoholic liquors reckoned in money by the sum of £900,000 and in quantity by 18,000,000 gallons; and Mr. Goschen had made the calculation that 36,000,000 more pipes of tobacco were smoked in 1890 than in 1889.

There is to be no remission of taxation, however, not even from the income tax. This will be a source of great vexation and disappointment to the many who are always setting forth their grievances on this subject. What is always most strongly objected to is the hardship inflicted upon the earners of the smaller incomes which fall under the tax; these being at the same time precarious as they depend upon the personal exertions of their earners, professional men and business men of all descriptions whose chief property is in their skill and labour. Upon these classes the income tax is often a grievous burden. On the other hand there are many incomes upon which nothing is more just than that a tax should be levied; and the great difficulty is to mark equitably the distinction between these different kinds of income. Mr. Goschen is not prepared yet to do what Mr. Gladstone

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once expressed his intention of doing if the electors were wise enough to return him to power. But they were not and the boon has never yet been granted. Mr. Goschen proposes to give his surplus in order to introduce the system of free education into all elementary schools about which both parties are agreed with a difference. When the bill authorising the remissiou of school fees comes on there will be a tough fight over the question of denominational and non-denominational or State schools and the declared intention of the Government to subsidise the former.

The proposal of Mr. Goschen to confer the boon of what is known as free or assisted education, as Conservatives used to call it in the earlier stages of their progress towards the adoption of a proposal which is naturally very popular amongst the large numbers of poorer voters, is undoubtedly the chief feature in the political world at present. It admirably illustrates what I have before spoken of, that is, the eagerness of both political parties to concentrate all their efforts on devising schemes which shall make them popular with the electors in view of the general election. In this as in so many other cases the Conservative party has passed from the attitude of opposition and has adopted what was once looked upon as a wild radical proposition into their own programme. Their conversion has no doubt been largely brought about by the fact that Mr. Chamberlain, who has been that chief advocate of free education for many years, and Liberal Unionists have very largely considered in the plans and projects of the Government. They have always insisted that if the Home Rulers were to be successfully met in the constituencies something more than an attitude of mere resistance must be taken up and that some programme must be put forward which should form a good basis for electioneering purposes. The granting of free education in all the elementary schools was one of the most attractive bids that could be made for support, and it is this bid that Mr. Goschen has made in his Budget.

The chief obstacle in the Conservative mind has been that if school fees were abolished in the State schools the voluntary or denominational schools, which means, to a very large extent, those under the control of the Clergy of the Established Church, would be thrust out of the competition with the non-sectarian Board or State schools. To propose this was to offend their most powerful supporters unless some means could be devised for enabling the voluntary schools also to carry on their work free from the burden of school fees. But this again has been most determinedly resisted by the Liberal party as an endowment of sectarian religion with the general funds of the State; and they have insisted that these should not be so applied except on the conditions that the schools should be under the control of State officials and managed upon secular principles. The inclination of the Conservative party has always gone most strongly against the exteusion of the purely secular teaching of the Board Schools and the remission of school fees seemed to involve the Voluntary Schools in destruction. Another point upon which they dwelt too was that free educatiou was a socialistic measure. However seeing that since Mr. Forster's Education Act three fourths of the educatiou both in the State schools and the Voluntary Schools has been subsidised by the State the further steps of remitting fees, and which only covered a fourth of the education charges, was hardly a matter upon which the battle of individualism against socialism could be fought. So that this objectiou has been the first to be given up. Ih regard to the position of the Voluntary Schools the conservative have not been persuaded that the electors will be too glad to receive the boon of remission of fees; for that is really what the term free education amounts to and no more, and will not favour the views of the Schivals who would withhold it uuless the Voluntary Schools should be brought within the State system of the country. This they would gladly do but they fear an appeal to the country on the part of the Government. Strengthened as it would be by the effective cry of free education, such a risk cannot be run and therefore we may look upon the carrying out of Mr. Goschen's proposal as certain to be accomplished with the concurreuce of the Liberals. Efforts will be made in Committee on the Bill to raise discussions intended to further educate the electors in the radical principle of opposition to the endowment, either direct or indirect, of religious teachjng. At some future time when power shall be in their hands they may be able to relieve their conscience of the compromise which at present they feel bound to make. They have no doubt a delicate task in hand in offering opposition. No less delicate than that of a small section of irreconcileable Conservatives who in their attachment to principles, which they protest the Government is betraying, have almost resolved heroecally to die, figuratively speaking, in their defence and to go into opposition against their otherwise beloved leaders. They again however may be trusted not to carry this tremendous conscientiousness to a length that will really involve the Government in much difficulty; but it looks well and will do no harm; their friends the Liberal Unionists will amply supply keen place in the camp they have temporarily deserted.

The Government and the Licensing Question.

One of the most embarrassing questions the Government has to deal with is that which relates to the manufacturers and sellers of alcoholic liquors and is known as the Licensing question. During the week there has been another of the constantly recurring discussions on this matter which forms one of the standing problems for which there has not as yet been found a satisfactory solution. Of late years the feeling has grown stronger and stronger that measures were necessary for restricting growth, or rather for lessening very considerably the number of houses licensed to sell intoxicating liquors. A strong temperance party insists upon very stingent measures being taken with this object. Their method is that known as Local Option which may be expressed in the language of the latest resolution on the subject as follows: "That local authorities should be intrusted with further powers of control over the issue of licenses and with respect to the day and hours during which the licensed houses should be opened." At present the bodies under which the liquor trade has grown up are Magistrates appointed by the Crown who act merely as executive officers without being subject to Municipal control. During a long course of years when the feeling in favour of a stringent regulation of the liquor traffic was not popular an inordinate number of licensed houses have grown up and the brewing and liquor selling interest is now one of the most powerfully organized bodies in the country. The fact too that the earlier attempts to impose restrictions upon the trade came chiefly from the Liberal party has led this interest to become enthusiastically conservative and the conservative party has therefore been largely hampered in taking any steps which would have threatened the position of this formidable body. But the force of events has driven even this party and their friends to the conclusion that some modification of their position is inevitable; and that in short the principle of Local Option in some form or other will have to be accepted. But here arises the crucial point of the situation. It is this: are the immense pecuniary interests of the trade to be sacrificed? If localities are to say whether or to what extent the trade is to be carried on shall there be no compensation allowed for the stoppage of businesses which have been carried on under the express license of the State? The contention of the supporters of the system has been that there was a legal vested interest in the license which could not be confiscated; but a famous case of Sharp and Wakefield, which was fought in all the Courts, has recently established that the legal interest is only a yearly one; and that the Magistrates may in their discrition close a house at the end of the year. This decision however only applies to a certain class of houses; others have a more secure tenure. As to these, and in fact as to all, the great contention now is that whatever the legal status may be there is, considering the history of the licensing system, an equitable right that no person shall be deprived of his business, even in the supposed interests of the public, without compensation. The bills of the Government in 1888 and 1890 sought to establish this principle by a clause whereby a fund was created out of monies raised from the trade itself which was to be applied to the compensation of persons whose houses were closed. This project was defeated and as a curious fact it may be mentioned that this very fund is now to be applied to the cause of free education. The anger of the liquor trade has been excited beyond description over this sharp practice, and their dissatisfaction has gone so far that that they have threatened the Government with their sore displeasure at the elections. Such good friends cannot be lightly treated with impunity, and the Government will redouble its exertions to prove that it still remains true to its avowed object of seeing that the trade shall suffer as little as may be from changes which cannot be much longer warded off. They have re-habilitated themselves somewhat by the result of the motion which I have mentioned when a conservative member moved as an amendment and was supported by the Government in so doing, option placed in the hands of a representative body adequate compensation should be given for all interests disturbed. This amendment was carried; and what cannot be denied to be a just principle was thus re-affirmed as it has been on other occasions. For it must be noticed that the opposition to the Government Bill of 1890 was rather against the particular measure than the general principle of compensation. Indeed the explanation of the extreme attitude of the liberal paty, so far its members are not fanatical haters of alcoholic liquors as such, is. The fears that an extravagant and reckless scheme of compensation should be laid down; and in this their justification is to be found. Like most politicians they mean either more or less than they say.

The Landlords of large Towns.

What is known amongst us as the Leasehold Enfranchisement Bill has been again unsucessful; as was indeed to be expected. I mention it because it brings into view a matter which has several points of interest, but because at present it is likely to have any very important hearing on the course of events, although the question of the land laws is one which always looms largely, if vaguely, in the future; and the leasehold system as a part of them, cannot be considered to be altogether satisfactory. The object of the Bill is to enable occupying tenants of town properties who hold their premises on more than a twenty years lease, to purchase, compulsorily, all other interests and to become freeholders. It is applying to English towns the principle of the compulsory clauses of the Irish Land Acts, though certainly without any advance of State monies to carry out the process. The arguments in favour of this rest upon the fact that in our large towns, and especially in

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London, the building land upon which there are erections already and which will be built upon in the course of the growth and extension of those towns, is mainly in the hands of a few very large landowners, most of them the descendants of men who at various periods have received their property by way of grant from the Crown for various reasons not always very closely connected with the public good. In the most part the land itself has been leased for a term of years, say 99, a very usual period. Upon this the tenants erect their own buildings at their own expense and at the end of the term land and buildings alike revert to the landowner. Being in great part premises there is of course great competition for them and as the tenants are very much at the landowner's mercy there is hardly any limit to the term which may be imposed upon those who wish to renew their leases. Many hardships are undoubtedly the result of this monopoly which is felt to give far too much power to the individuals who chance to enjoy it over their fellow-citizens. What is desired is to break down this monopoly and create a larger number of freeholders; but the difficulty in the way is first of all the strong feeling which always exists against interfering with the rights of ownership, and next the difficulty of discovering some method of equitably adjusting the various claims which arise owing to the fact of many interests intervening between the ground landowner and the actual occupier. This is the ground which is always taken up by opponents of the proposed legislation and it has hitherto been successful. Moreover of late a new complication has been introduced of an interesting kind by the growth of the feeling that what is called the "unearned increment" of value which attaches to land by the prosperity of the community that lives and increases upon it, should not be wholly reaped by private owners, but that some part of it at least should be considered public property. In short there is a tendency to advocate the nationalization of the land; though as yet it is only in its infancy and can hardly be described as vigorous. So that there are two parties of leasehold enfranchises—the old and new and the latter desire that if new freeholders are to be created they shall not be merely put into the old privileges of those whom they succeed. Their objection is similar to that of Milton when he described the Presbyterian clergy as Prelacy went large. If the new body of freeholders were created there is no doubt that the special doctrine of this school would stand less chance than it does at present. How little acceptance their theory finds in the House of Commons may be judged from the division when their proposal was rejected by 314 to 39.

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PERIAR PROJECT.

On the last day of April a meeting was held at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, under the Chairmanship of Sir M. Grant Duff, to hear and discuss a paper by Colonel J. O. Hasted, R. E., on "The Periar Irrigation Project, Madras Presidency." Among those present were Sir John Strachey, Sir C. A. Turner Sir O. T. Burne, Sir George Birdwood, Sir Theodore Hope, Sir H. T. Wood, Mr. Hyde Clarke, Mr. Wollaston, c. s. I., Rafiuddin Ahmed, and Mr. C. L. Tupper, Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government.

The paper contained a full description of the engineering details of the works that are being carried out in order to distribute the water by artificial channels from a point some twenty miles west of Madura. Irrigation works, said Colonel Hasted, are now rather a drug in the market, and the name conveys to most people the idea of a weir across a river, and a net work of channels to convey water to flat, uninteresting rice fields. The Periar project is, however, an irrigation work of a very different character. The Periar runs perennially, and in its valley, where the works are to be constructed the rainfall is estimated at about 125 inches. The project is to construct a dam 155 feet high, to close the valley, and form a reservoir, 8,000 acres in area, which will contain thirteen thousand three hundred millions of cubic feet of water, of which about one half will be available for irrigation. The nearest station on the South Indian Railway is Ammayanaikenoor, 25 miles North of Madura. The estimate is £542,509, or at 1*s*. 6*d*. per rupee £206,87. The land is leased from the Travancore Government for 999 years at a rent of £4,000 a year. The water is absolutely valueless to Travancore, but native States have to be tenderly dealt with. Sir Richard Lavinge, who was for years Collector in the Southern districts assured him that the land required was at one time actually the property of the British Government, and when the boundaries of the Travancore State were being demarcated it was given to Travancore. The work commenced in August 1887 and it is proposed to complete it in eight years. He believed it will be carried to a successful conclusion, to the credit of the officers concerned, the benefit of the Government and the material improvement, of that part of India he had had the honour to serve in, and which he was told, is still called by Anglo-Indians in higher latitudes, "the benighted Presidency." In the discussion which followed Sir G. Molesworth explained the formula which was adopted for calculating the strength of the proposed dam. Sir Theodore Hope said that in 1876 many persons believed that irrigation works were almost the sole panacea for famines in India. Consequently a great number of schemes were pressed upon the Government, but the engineers and Civil officers were convinced that in years of famine the tanks would be found to contain no water at all, and their expectations had been realised. The Periar Project, however, depended for a supply of water on a perennial source, and therefore it was a great satisfaction to him before he delivered up the charge of the office which he held until three years ago, to be able to convey to the Government of Madras the sanction of the Imperial Government to the commencement of the works. There could not be the slightest doubt that they would be conducted to a successful conclusion, and that they would remain for many centuries as a great monument to the talent of the engineers of the Indian Service, and of the Madras Presidency in particular. General Mullens said that the country which this work was intended to benefit had for a great number of years suffered from a scanty supply of water. Although it would not pay very highly like the Delta works it was of very great importance. It had been found necessary to make a very large extension of railway communication in order to take the food obtainable in one part of the country to the districts where it was most wanted, but a good deal could still be done, in storing the water which at present ran uselessly into the sea. Southern India possessed thousands of tanks which in ordinary seasons were very valuable, but which did not insure a supply of water when the rainfall was much below the normal point. Mr. Martin Wood was exceedingly glad that the Government of India had at last consented to go on with the Periar project, which he believed had been under consideration for years. The supply of water from the Western Ghats was enormous. Millions and millions of tons of water rolled down to the sea year by year past the arrack plains of India, and it was high time that men who had a proper pride in the Indian Empire should rise to a more general view of this question. Irrigation was a panacea if properly carried out. The water which India possesses is equal to the wealth of Australia or the diamonds of South Africa. Cheap transit is necessary, and that can not be obtained by railways, it must be by canals. During the last few years from £150,000,000 to £180,000,000 has been spent on railways, and only about £25,000,000 on irrigation. The comparison is a reproach to Englishmen as a practical people, and those who know the poverty of Southern India must realise how immense an assistance it would be to the country to have cheap and easy water transit. Mr. Hyde Clarke considered that both irrigation works and railways were of great importance in India, but he had hoped that the old doctrine had passed away that irrigation alone was required. In his opinion one of the greatest benefits that India had received was the introduction of railways, by which it possessed the same means of transport as the rest of the world. He had been struck by the fact that India had greatly prospered by the application of inventions that were scarcely known in England, such as the turbine and the wire tramway. In Italy many mountain lines had been worked by means of the wire tramway which could not have been carried out under any other system, and yet years ago he lost his money by putting it in such a tramway. It was also interesting to notice how some very old works had been imitated in new constructions. The Dykes of Holland were made of earth, but they had resisted the ocean itself, so that in the Periar works the engineers were only going back to old principles. One difference between the construction of railways and of irrigation works was that the latter were useless until they were completed, and if any failure occurred the project might be thrown back for years; but in the case of a railway whenever any portion of it was finished it could be utilised. He, therefore, believed that even Mr. Wood would ultimately acknowledge that railways were necessary as well as irrigation. Colonel Hasted in reply referred to Sir Arthur Cotton who 36 years ago fought the battle of irrigation before the Society of Arts in the very room in which the present meeting was being held. The Toombudra project was a magnificent one, but it was far beyond the power of the Madras Presidency to take it up. As for navigation in connection, with the Periar works, he did not think it would answer at all. He had a recollection of an inland canal far away from the sea, and though boats were supplied no body would use them, and the navigation was an utter failure. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Colonel Hasted, after which Sir Grant Duff mentioned that a letter had been received from Sir Andrew Clarke, who had read the paper and congratulated the author upon it. The Periar Project had always been a pet of the Madras Government. From generation to generation they had believed in it, and he was extremely delighted to have lived to see it far advanced.

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Government Notification

Calcutta Gazette.—*June 4*, 1891.

GENERAL— Mr A Forbes, Magistrate and Collector, Shahabad, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Commissioner of the Dacca Division.

Mr J H Bernard, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is appointed to act, temporarily as Magistrate and Collector of that district.

Babu Shama Podo Chowdhury, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under section 4 of the public Demands Recovery Act VII (B.C.) of 1880 in district of Chumparun.

Babu Ram Sadan Bhattacharjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhun, is transferred to Backerganj, and is posted to the head-quarters of that dfstrict.

Colonel W Hopkinson, Cantonment Magistrate, Dinapur, on leave, is appointed to be cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpur.

Captain C J Robarts, Officiating Cantonment Magistrate, Dinapur, is confirmed is that appointment.

Mr J A Hopkins, Magistrate and Collector, Patna, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Mr. E. G. Colvin, Assistaitant Magistrate and Collector, is appointed to be a JointMagistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade, with effect from the 16th instant, *vice* Mr H F J T Maguire.

Mr Colvin will continue on deputation until further orders.

Mr E H C Walsh, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector on settlement work, Orissa, is appointed substantively *pro tempore* to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade, vice Mr. E. G. Colvin.

Mr. Walsh will continue to act in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors until further orders.

Bbu Kali Prasanna Chowdhuri, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Noakhali, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Dwarka Nath Bose, Temporary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Murshidabad, is transferred to Noakhali, and is posted to the head-quarters of that district.

The order of the 19th ultimo granting ptivilege leave for two months to Babu Bungshi Dhur Rai, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Murshidabad, is cancelled.

Babu Kunja Behari Goswami, B.L., who qualified himself at the last Sub-Deputy Collectorship Examination, is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the fourth grade, and is posted to Durbhunga.

Babu Deno Nath Chuckerbutty, Superintendent of the Gya Distillery, on leave, is transferred to the charge of the Giridi Distillery in Hazaribagh, vice Babu Charu Chunder Mitter, transferred to the charge of the Gya Distillery.

POLICE.—Mr R F H Pughe, District Superintendent of Police, on specieal duty in the South Lushai Hills district, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

ECCLESIASTICAL—The Revd. T D Gray, Chaplain of Barrackpur, is allowed furough for eighteen months, under article 647 (*a*) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from such date as he may avail himself of it.

The Revd. W J Wickins, Chaplain of Dum-Dum, is appointed to act as Chaplain of Barrackpur, in addition to his own duties, with effect from the date of his taking over charge from the Revd. T D Gray.

REGISTRTION—Rai Gunganund Mukerjee Bahadur is appointed to be Special Sub-Registrar of Purulia in the district of Manbhum.

Maulvi Abdul Jalil is appointed, on probation for six months, to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Sibchar, in the district of Faridpur.

JAILS—Mr M S Emerson, Assistant Superintendent of Jails, second grade, is promoted to the first grade of Assistant Superintendents of Jails, with effect from the 15th April1, 891.

Mr H M Owen, Assistant Superintendent of Jails, third grade, is promoted to the second grade of Assistant Superintendents of Jails, with effect from the 15th April, 1891.

CUSTOMS—Mr W Warden, Collector of Customs, Chittagong, is allowed furlough for one year, under article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 18th June, 1891.

Mr E Good, Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, is appointed to act as Collector of Customs, Chittagong, in addition to his own duties, during the absence, on leave, of Mr W Warden, or until further orders.

JUDICIAL.—Babu Bhugwan Chunder Chuckerbutty, Subordinate Judge of Hughli and of the Small Cause Courts of Hughli, Howrah and Serampur, is allowed leave for three months, under articles 370 and 377 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 1st proximo, or from the date on which he may be relieved.

Syud Syid Hossen is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at the Sadar station of the Mozufferpur district, and is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

The late Babu Nilmadhub Banerjee, Officiating Judge of the Court of Small Causes at Krishnaghur, Ranaghat and Bongong, was no leave under article 369 of the Civil Service Regulations from the 30th March to the 13th April 1891, both days inclusive.

Babu Upendra Chunder Chatterjee, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Dacca, to be ordinarily stationed at the Sader station, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Jogendra Nath Deb, or until further orders.

Under the authority vested in him by the final clause of section 357 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Act X of 1882, the Lieutenant-Governor empowers Babu Umesh Chunder Dutt, as Honorary Magistrate of the Krishnaghur Independent Bench, in the district of Nadiya, to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language.

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